

Endorsements of 2008 Committee Reported Budget Resolution  
(Status as of 3/28/2007)

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- The American Legion, March 21
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- Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, March 26
- United Cerebral Palsy, March 26
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- National Council of Social Security Management Associations, March 27
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- National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, March 27

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- National Head Start Association, March 27
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- Student Aid Alliance, March 27
- Committee for Education Funding, March 27
- American Association of University Women, March 27
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- Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International North America, March 27
- Symantec, March 28

# THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET

*A Budget for Veterans by Veterans*

[www.independentbudget.org](http://www.independentbudget.org)

March 21, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Jr.  
Chairman, House Committee on the Budget  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6065

Dear Chairman Spratt:

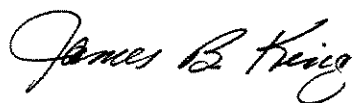
On behalf of *The Independent Budget*, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support of our nation's sick and disabled veterans.

We appreciate your efforts as Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget to achieve an excellent mark for total discretionary spending for the Department of Veterans Affairs for this year. Your support for discretionary funding levels consistent with *The Independent Budget* will allow the VA to better address the needs of the men and women returning from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as all veterans who have served in the past.

However, we must note that the projections for modest increases in the out years would be insufficient. We can not expect VA to continue to meet future demand with the minimal increases projected in coming years.

We appreciate your strong advocacy for our nation's service-connected disabled veterans, and all veterans and their families, and we will support you in any way to ensure that the funding levels you have established for this year as a benchmark will be achieved.

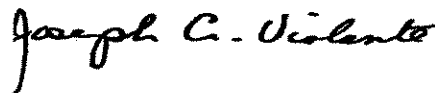
Sincerely,



James B. King  
Executive Director  
AMVETS



Carl Blake  
National Legislative Director  
Paralyzed Veterans of America



Joseph A. Violante  
National Legislative Director  
Disabled American Veterans



Dennis Cullinan  
National Legislative Director  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
of the United States

A Joint Project of:

AMVETS  
4647 Forbes Boulevard  
Lanham, MD 20706  
(301) 459-9600  
[www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org)

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
807 Maine Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2410  
(202) 554-3501  
[www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA  
801 Eighteenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-3517  
(202) 872-1300  
[www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
200 Maryland Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
(202) 543-2239  
[www.vfwdc.org](http://www.vfwdc.org)

# The American Legion



★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1808 "K" STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-2847 ★  
(202) 861-2700 ★ FAX (202) 861-2728 ★

March 21, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Jr., Chairman  
Committee on Budget  
United States House of Representatives  
B-71 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6065

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The American Legion and its 2.8 million members applaud the Budget Committee for the Budget Resolution recommendation for \$43.1 billion in discretionary funding for Veterans (Function 700). This represents an increase of \$3.5 billion above the President's budget request for FY 2008 and \$6.6 billion above current funding level for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

As a nation at war, this funding will help cover the ongoing cost of war to care for the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their families. Your recommendations closely parallel the views and estimates submitted by The American Legion earlier this year.

The American Legion urges the Congress to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with sufficient funding to meet the needs of taking care of America's service members – past, present, and future. We look forward to working with you and your congressional colleagues in ensuring the Department of Veterans Affairs remains a solid agency that meets this nation's obligation to those men and women sent into harm's way.

Sincerely,

Steve Robertson, Director  
National Legislative Commission

CC: Representative Paul Ryan  
Representative Chet Edwards  
Representative Roger Wicker

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
FOUNDED 1899



GARY KURPIUS  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

VFW MEMORIAL BUILDING  
200 MARYLAND AVENUE, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002-5799

March 21, 2007

The Hon. John Spratt  
Chairman  
Committee On The Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
310 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt:

On behalf of the 2.4 million men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW), and our Auxiliaries, I would like to offer our gratitude for the leadership you have demonstrated on veterans' issues through your dramatic increase above and beyond the President's request for fiscal year 2008 funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

We have long argued that the price of health care and benefits for this nation's veterans are the ongoing costs of war. The \$3.5 billion increase above the President's request is a strong acknowledgement that you agree and that this nation must do more to live up to its sacred obligations to those who have defended her. The costs of war are not just about buying bombs or tanks, but about providing for our sick and disabled when they return, and helping these heroes care for their families and dependents.

The dramatic increase in this budget recommendation will help to ensure that all veterans – those from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and those from all our previous conflicts – have access to the high-quality health care VA provides, and quicker resolution to their veterans' disability compensation decisions.

The members of the VFW stand firmly behind you, in support of your strong advocacy for this nation's veterans. We thank you for your strong leadership on veterans' health care and benefits, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the success of this budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary Kurpius".

Gary Kurpius  
Commander-in-Chief

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: David E. Autry  
(202) 314-5219

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 21, 2007

### **House, Senate Budget Plans Keep Faith with Veterans**

WASHINGTON—The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is urging lawmakers to support a recommended \$6.6 billion increase in funding for veterans health care and other programs as called for in 2008 budget blueprints being debated in the House and Senate.

“The budget recommendations that came out of the House and Senate Budget Committees will make a real difference in the lives of America’s sick and disabled veterans,” said DAV National Commander Bradley S. Barton. “This is especially important as our nation is at war.”

Both budget resolutions reported out of committee call for \$43.1 billion in discretionary spending for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the bulk of which is for veterans health care. That is \$6.6 billion above the fiscal 2007 enacted level and \$3.5 billion above the President’s request. The congressional budget blueprints do not include user fees and higher prescription co-payments contained in the President’s plan.

Commander Barton praised Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) and House Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt (D-N.C.) for their support of discretionary funding levels in line with recommendations in *The Independent Budget* authored by the DAV and other veterans service organizations. “This much-needed funding increase will allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to better meet the needs of the men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as all veterans who have served in the past,” he said.

While the draft budget resolutions call for significant increases in spending for veterans programs in fiscal year 2008, the DAV is concerned about future projected funding levels. “Funding must keep pace with rising health care costs and an expected increase in veterans seeking services from the VA,” Barton said. “The DAV will continue working with Congress to ensure that future budgets meet the needs of our nation’s sick and disabled veterans.”

The 1.3 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation’s disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation’s disabled veterans and their families. For more information, visit the organization’s Web site [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org).

###



**VADM Norbert R. Ryan, Jr. USN (Ret)**  
*President*

March 26, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman, Committee on Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the more than 360,000 members of the Military Officers Association of America, I am writing to express MOAA's appreciation for your efforts to address the most pressing needs of the military and veterans' community in the FY2008 Budget Resolution.

In particular, we are grateful to you and your Committee for increasing funding for VA health care and services by \$5.4 billion above the current services level and for rejecting the Administration proposal to triple TRICARE fees for military retirees and reduce the Defense health budget by \$1.86 billion. MOAA very much supports the Committee's priority on keeping health care commitments to our retirees and veterans.

We also note with pleasure that the Committee provided latitude in the Budget Resolution for additional improvements in military pay and benefits to promote and sustain long-term retention and readiness. MOAA looks forward to continued dialogue with the Committee in identifying options to address needs for a military pay raise of at least 3.5% and for additional progress in reducing compensation inequities for disabled military retirees and survivors of members who die of service-connected causes.

Sincerely, *With all the best*  
*Norbert Ryan*

cc: The Honorable Paul Ryan





AMERICAN  
PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION  
ASSOCIATION

March 23, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Budget  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6065

Dear Chairman Spratt:

On behalf of the more than 1,500 member organizations of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), I write to express our strong support for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 House Budget Resolution which provides the resources necessary to fund the federal transit program at the full level authorized and guaranteed by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU, P.L. 109-59). We believe the committee's support of public transportation funding in the resolution is a worthy investment decision among many prudent choices.

Public transportation reduces congestion making roads flow more freely, and it provides mobility to millions of Americans. Transit use also reduces energy consumption and makes our transportation system more efficient. As we invest in transit, it is also critical that we do everything possible to protect riders against terrorist attacks. In that regard, we also appreciate the fact that the FY 2008 House Budget Resolution begins to better address transit security needs.

We thank you for your support of investment in the nation's public transportation infrastructure, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the years ahead. If you have questions, please have your staff contact Homer Carlisle of APTA's Government Affairs Department at (202) 496-4810 or email [hcarlisle@apta.com](mailto:hcarlisle@apta.com).

Sincerely yours,

William W. Millar  
President

WWM/tjj

Chair  
Howard Silver

First Vice Chair  
Michael S. Townes

Secretary-Treasurer  
Michael J. Scanlon

Immediate Past Chair  
Ronald L. Barnes

Vice Chairs  
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Thomas J. Costello  
Marketing and Communications

Michael P. DePallo  
Rail Transit

Fred M. Gilliam  
Bus and Paratransit Operations

Kim B. Green  
Business Member-at-Large

Delon Hampton  
Business Members

John M. Inglish  
Research and Technology

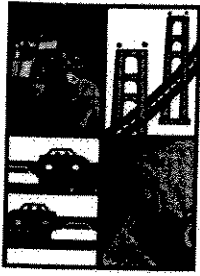
Jeanne Krieg  
Human Resources

Gary W. McNeil  
Canadian Members

Hugh A. Mose  
Small Operations

David Solow  
Commuter and Intercity Rail

President  
William W. Millar



**TRANSPORTATION  
CONSTRUCTION  
COALITION**

**We're Building A  
Better America!**

American Road & Transportation Builders Association (co-chair) ■ Associated General Contractors of America (co-chair) ■ American Coal Ash Association ■ American Concrete Pavement Association ■ American Concrete Pipe Association ■ American Council of Engineering Companies ■ American Society of Civil Engineers ■ American Subcontractors Association ■ American Traffic Safety Services Association ■ Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association ■ Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association ■ Associated Equipment Distributors ■ Association of Equipment Manufacturers ■ International Slurry Surfacing Association ■ International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers ■ International Union of Operating Engineers ■ Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust ■ Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO ■ National Asphalt Pavement Association ■ National Association of Surety Bond Producers ■ National Lime Association ■ National Ready Mixed Concrete Association ■ National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association ■ National Utility Contractors Association ■ Portland Cement Association ■ Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute ■ The Road Information Program ■ United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

**For More Information:**  
202/289-4434 (ARTBA)  
703/548-3118 (AGC)

March 23, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Budget  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt:

The 28 national associations and construction unions of the Transportation Construction Coalition commend you for developing an FY 2008 budget proposal that follows through on the commitments Congress and the Administration made to improve the nation's highway and transit network.

The 2005 reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program, SAFETEA-LU, guarantees an FY 2008 highway investment level of \$40.2 billion and public transportation investment of \$9.7 billion. The proposed budget resolution reported by the House Budget Committee fully adheres to these requirements. These resources will be used for critical surface transportation improvements in every state that will strengthen the nation's economy and improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Congress created statutory funding guarantees for the federal highway and transit programs in 1998 to protect the integrity of the surface transportation financing user fee concept. The House budget resolution's treatment of these programs keeps faith with that concept by ensuring Highway Trust Fund revenues are fully invested in improving the nation's transportation infrastructure network.

We are also pleased the proposed FY 2008 budget would provide critical resources to help alleviate congestion in the nation's air traffic system. The measure assumes \$3.8 billion for the Airport Improvement Program which would support needed expansion and improvement of airport runway capacity.

The members of the Transportation Construction Coalition appreciate the strong message the proposed House budget resolution sends about the importance of transportation infrastructure improvements to U.S. quality of life and economic strength. We urge all House members to support passage of this important measure.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition



March 26, 2007

**RE: Vote "YES" on H. Con. Res. 99, the FY 2008 House Budget Resolution**

Dear Representative:

The Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund is an independent organization committed to giving conservation issues a political voice on Capitol Hill and around the nation. In January 2007, the Action Fund published its fourth annual Conservation Report Card, which highlighted the voting records of Members of Congress on legislation vital to protecting our nation's wildlife and wild landscapes for future generations. The Action Fund will strongly consider including the vote on H. Con. Res. 99, the FY 2008 House Budget Resolution in its next Conservation Report Card. H. Con. Res. 99 would begin to reverse years of budget cuts to programs that protect our environment and natural resources and would provide a significant increase over the President's budget request. The Action Fund strongly urges you to vote "YES" on the Resolution.

Under the leadership of Chairman Spratt, the FY 2008 House Budget Resolution takes an important first step in renewing our nation's commitment to protecting our natural heritage after years of severely inadequate budgets. Programs that protect our wildlife and public lands have suffered significant cuts in recent years; even meager increases that have been given to some programs have failed to keep pace with fixed costs. While additional increases will be needed in the future to meet all the pressing needs, the funding levels in the House Resolution represent a significant down payment that will help us begin to rebuild our deteriorating public land and wildlife agencies.

The Action fund is pleased that H. Con. Res. 99 would provide a total appropriated level of \$31.4 billion for environment and natural resource programs for FY 2008, \$2.6 billion over the President's request and \$1 billion over the final FY 2007 levels. The budget blueprint rejects the President's damaging cuts to endangered species protection, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, many Farm Bill conservation programs, and other important wildlife, habitat and public lands programs. The Budget Resolution also would begin to restore funding for the National Wildlife Refuge System, which has been undergoing a massive restructuring and downsizing in the face of budget shortfalls. In addition, the Resolution includes a deficit-neutral reserve fund that supports an increase of \$20 billion over the next five years for reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

The House Budget Resolution represents an important beginning in the restoration of environmental programs neglected by years of inadequate budgets. The Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund urges you to vote in support of these important programs by voting "Yes" on the House Budget Resolution. Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to working with you throughout the FY 2008 budget and appropriations process. For more information, please contact Mary Beth Beetham in our office at (202) 772-0231.

Sincerely,

Rodger Schlickeisen  
President



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Deborah Bagocius 202.772.0239

March 22, 2007

## HOUSE BUDGET BLUEPRINT MAKES DOWN PAYMENT ON ENVIRONMENT Funding Reverses Cuts to Wildlife and Lands

Washington, DC - Defenders of Wildlife today praised the House Budget Committee and its chairman John Spratt (D-SC) for beginning to reverse years of budget cuts to programs that protect our environment and natural resources. The Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution passed late last night by the budget panel would provide a significant increase over the President's budget request.

"Under the leadership of Chairman Spratt, the House Budget Committee has taken an important first step in renewing our nation's commitment to protecting our natural heritage after years of slash and burn budgets by the Bush administration," said Defenders of Wildlife president, Rodger Schlickeisen. "The funding levels included in the House Budget Resolution represent a significant down payment that will help us to rebuild our deteriorating public land and wildlife agencies."

The House Budget Resolution would provide a total appropriated level of \$31.4 billion for environment and natural resource programs for FY 2008, \$2.6 billion over the President's request and \$1 billion over the final FY 2007 levels. The budget blueprint rejects the President's damaging cuts to endangered species protection, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, many Farm Bill conservation programs, and other important wildlife, habitat and public lands programs. The funding provided also would begin to restore the National Wildlife Refuge System, which has been undergoing a massive restructuring and downsizing in the face of budget shortfalls. In addition, the resolution includes a deficit-neutral reserve fund that supports an increase of \$20 billion over the next five years for reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

"Chairman Spratt has taken the first step toward restoring environmental programs that were essentially on life-support following years of cuts by the Bush administration," continued Schlickeisen. "We look forward to working with him, the House and Senate Budget Committees, and Congressional appropriators in the coming years to secure the funding to make them whole again so our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy a vibrant and healthy environment."

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*Defenders of Wildlife is recognized as one of the nation's most progressive advocates for wildlife and its habitat. With more than 500,000 members and supporters, Defenders of Wildlife is an effective leader on endangered species issues.*

**AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY • AMERICAN RIVERS  
• AUDUBON • CLEAN WATER ACTION • DEFENDERS  
OF WILDLIFE • EARTHJUSTICE • FRIENDS OF THE  
EARTH • MARINE CONSERVATION BIOLOGY  
INSTITUTE • NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST •  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION •  
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL • OCEAN  
CONSERVANCY • OCEANA • SIERRA CLUB • U.S.  
PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP • THE  
WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

March 26, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the millions of Americans our organizations represent, we write to urge you to support the House Budget Resolution offered by Chairman Spratt. The House budget recognizes the urgent need for investment in the nation's environment and natural resources. The programs that safeguard our environment and public health have suffered significant cuts in recent years with even the programs receiving increases failing to keep pace with inflation. While additional funding will be necessary in the future, by providing \$2.6 billion more in appropriated funds for function 300 than the President's budget the House budget takes an important step toward reversing this trend and better protecting our air, water, public lands, parks, and wildlife. We urge you to support the resolution and look forward to working with you going forward to continue to improve the prognosis for our environment and natural resources.

Enacting the President's fiscal year 2008 budget request would have serious impacts for the environment and natural resources on which our health and economy depend. For example, the President proposed: slashing \$500 million from the Environmental Protection Agency's State and Tribal Assistance Grants that fund crucial state programs to protect air and water quality; shortchanging land conservation by proposing record-low levels for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and continuing to starve the land management and wildlife agencies; and providing insufficient resources to improve the health of our oceans.

By rejecting the President's proposed cuts and providing a down payment of additional resources to address high priority needs, the House budget takes a crucial step toward restoring these essential programs and protecting the environment and public health.

We urge you to support these critical programs, and we look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the 2008 budget and appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Perry Plumart  
Director, Conservation Advocacy  
American Bird Conservancy

Peter Raabe  
Policy Director for Budget and  
Appropriations  
American Rivers

Brian Moore  
Assistant Director, Government  
Relations  
Audubon

Lynn Thorp  
National Campaigns Coordinator  
Clean Water Action

Mary Beth Beetham  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
Defenders of Wildlife

Marty Hayden  
Legislative Director  
Earthjustice

Sara Zdeb  
Legislative Director  
Friends of the Earth

William Chandler  
Vice President  
Marine Conservation Biology Institute

Karen Steuer  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
National Environmental Trust

Michael Woodbridge  
Director of Government Affairs  
National Wildlife Refuge Association

Karen Wayland  
Legislative Director  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Dana Wolfe  
Legislative Program Manager  
Ocean Conservancy

Beth Lowell  
Ocean Wildlife Advocate  
Oceana

Debbie Sease  
National Campaigns Director  
Sierra Club

Anna Aurilio  
Legislative Director  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group

Sarah Neimeyer  
Director, Budget and Appropriations  
The Wilderness Society



March 26, 2007

Dear House Member:

On behalf of Trout Unlimited's 155,000 members in 36 states, I am writing to request that you support the House Budget Resolution offered by Chairman Spratt. The House budget recognizes the urgent need for investment in the nation's environment and natural resources. The programs that conserve and restore our environment have suffered significant cuts in recent years. While additional funding will be necessary in the future, by providing \$2.6 billion more in appropriated funds for function 300 than the President's budget, the House budget takes an important step toward reversing this trend and better protecting our water quantity and quality, public lands, fish, and wildlife.

Trout Unlimited (TU) is North America's largest trout and salmon conservation organization. On average, our members donate well more than 1000 hours of volunteer time each year to stream improvement and watershed restoration work on both public and private lands. Our members recognize that investing in these resources makes good fiscal sense too. For example, recreational fishing on our National Forest System's 220,000 miles of streams contributes more than \$8.5 billion to the nation's economy.

Enacting the President's fiscal year 2008 budget request would have serious impacts to the resources that TU members cherish. For example, more than 50 percent of all of the nation's blue ribbon trout streams flow across national forests. Nonetheless, the President proposed slashing \$18 million from the Forest Service's Fish and Wildlife account.

I hope that you will support these critical programs. Trout Unlimited members and staff look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Kira Finkler  
Government Affairs Director

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release: March 22, 2007**

### **HOUSE BUDGET RESTORES CONSERVATION FUNDING**

*President's Deep Cuts Rejected in Renewed Commitment to Conservation.*

*Numerous Popular Conservation Programs to Benefit.*

WASHINGTON—In a repudiation of the Bush administration's abandonment of America's historical commitment to conservation, Congress yesterday restored essential funding to popular conservation programs deeply cut in the President's FY 2008 budget request. The budget resolution released yesterday by the House Budget Committee under Chairman John Spratt (D-SC) provides \$32.8 billion for protecting and restoring the environment. This renewed support for conservation effectively ends the downward spiral of investment in the environment allowed by recent Congresses, and represents an increase of \$1.48 billion over FY 2007 levels and \$2.6 billion more than the president requested in his budget earlier this year.

"With this budget, the House has provided a breath of fresh air to all of us who care about the environment," said Sarah Neimeyer of The Wilderness Society. "This increase in funding represents a real commitment to reinvest in protecting the air, water, wildlife, and public places that we will care about. After years of deep cuts in conservation funding, it is a relief to see Congress taking this step."

The House budget blueprint will restore funding for such popular programs as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, endangered species protection, National Wildlife Refuge System, and other critical land management and wildlife programs.

**CONTACT:** Craig Culp, The Wilderness Society, (202) 429-3941, (301) 509-0925 (mobile)

\*\*\*\*\*

Craig W. Culp  
Communications Director  
Eastern Forest Program  
(202) 429-3941  
[craig\\_culp@twc.org](mailto:craig_culp@twc.org)



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BRINGING RIVERS TO LIFE



*American Rivers*

FOUNDED 1973

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**For Immediate Release**

21 March 2007

Contact: Brad DeVries, National Media Director  
(202) 243-7023

## **HOUSE BUDGET INVESTS IN CONSERVATION**

**Additional Funds Would Boost Clean Water & River Restoration**

**WASHINGTON** — American Rivers applauded the important investments in the environment reflected in today's House budget resolution, which provides \$32.8 billion for protecting and restoring the environment. This represents an important reversal of the previous Congress' chronic neglect of conservation funding and an increase of \$1.48 billion over the FY 07 level and \$2.6 billion more than the president's request.

"The resources the House is committing to the environment will begin to reinvest in our children's health and the world that they will inherit from us. For too long, our environmental future has been just an after thought for the federal government," said Peter Raabe, American Rivers' policy director for budget and appropriations. "Much like the money we spend on roads, investment in clean water and river restoration creates jobs, drives local economies and helps our communities thrive."

The House budget resolution will give the Congressional appropriators the needed flexibility to reduce the amount of raw sewage in our streams by funding the Clean Water State Revolving Fund at \$1.35 billion. The budget makes room for \$48 million to adequately manage the 168 Wild and Scenic Rivers in our country. Raabe said the House budget will also allow appropriators to allocate funds to begin removing some of the country's most obsolete, dangerous dams by funding the Open Rivers initiative at \$12 million.

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*Founded in 1973, American Rivers is a national non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring healthy natural rivers for the benefit of people, wildlife and nature. American Rivers has more than 65,000 supporters nationwide, with offices in Washington, DC and the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Midwest, Southeast, California and Northwest regions. [www.AmericanRivers.org](http://www.AmericanRivers.org).*



1150 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20036-4104  
Tel: 202-861-2242  
Fax: 202-861-4290  
[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

March 27, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the National Audubon Society I write to urge you to support the House Budget Resolution offered by Chairman Spratt. The House Budget Resolution recognizes the urgent need to change the course on spending and reinvest in the nation's environment and natural resources. The Departments, Agencies, and programs that manage our natural resources have received significant cuts in recent years resulting in a hindered ability to manage our public lands and to protect birds, wildlife and their habitats. The budget that will be before you this week will provide a \$2.6 billion increase over the President's budget request and will help reverse the funding trend that our land management agencies have been facing and cannot sustain. I urge you to support the resolution and look forward to working with you to continue to improve our natural resources and wildlife habitat.

Funding for Natural Resources and the Environment has steadily declined over the last several years. Restoring cuts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the National Wildlife Refuge System and to the Everglades Ecosystem Restoration are instrumental in maintaining critical habitat for recreation, clean air and water, refuge for threatened and endangered species. By providing the necessary resources, we are able to ensure that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy wildlife in its natural habitat for years to come.

I urge you to support these critical programs and look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the 2008 budget and appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Betsy Loyless  
Senior Vice President  
National Audubon Society

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND • THE CONSERVATION FUND •  
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY • LAND TRUST ALLIANCE**

Dear Member of Congress:

As representatives of the nation's largest land conservation organizations, we are writing to urge you to support H.Con.Res. 99, the budget resolution recently approved by the House Budget Committee. For the first time in years, the budget resolution addresses the ever-increasing pressures that threaten our nation's natural resources. By providing an increase of \$2.6 billion in appropriated funds for Function 300 over the President's budget, the House budget will allow for a meaningful investment in forests, parks, wildlife refuges, working landscapes and other public lands from inner cities to wilderness areas. We urge you to support the resolution as a crucial first step toward the vital protection of our natural resources.

To meet now-or-never, on-the-ground land conservation needs across our nation, local leaders, state partners, and federal agencies require the additional resources in Function 300 that this resolution would provide. Programs including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (federal and state-side), the Forest Legacy Program, the Cooperative Endangered Species Fund, and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act are essential for thousands of communities seeking to conserve irreplaceable wildlife habitat, recreation resources and access, historic sites, watersheds, and working farms and forests. At a time when these public treasures are at greater risk than ever before -- last year, alone, for example, more than seven million acres of working forest lands were sold on the open market -- it is absolutely essential that the real-dollar decline in Function 300 programs over the past several years be reversed.

We are gratified that the House Budget Committee has recognized the urgent need for increased federal investment in these and other natural resource programs. We also appreciate the enormous commitment that non-federal partners -- including state and local governments, often at the direction of the voters, as well as philanthropic private donors -- are making to protect our most significant lands and waterways. In the last election, \$5.73 billion for conservation of parks, forests, farms and wildlife areas was generated through local bond measures in communities throughout this country. As states, localities, and a concerned citizenry step up to the challenges of conservation, it is critical that the federal government do its share to leverage these local efforts. Through the Budget Resolution you will consider on the House floor later this week, federal agencies can meet their conservation responsibilities and respond to the most pressing of land protection needs.

We urge you to support these important programs by voting to approve the Budget Resolution, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to protect America's public land treasures through the 2008 budget and appropriations processes ahead.

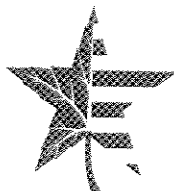
Sincerely,

Alan Front  
Senior Vice President  
The Trust for Public Land

Jimmie Powell  
Director of Government Relations  
The Nature Conservancy

Larry Selzer  
President  
The Conservation Fund

Rand Wentworth  
President  
Land Trust Alliance



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2007

**Re: Support H. Con. Res. 99**

Dear Representative:

1920 L Street, NW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC  
20036  
202-785-8683  
Fax: 202-835-0491  
E-mail: [lcv@lcv.org](mailto:lcv@lcv.org)  
Web: [www.lcv.org](http://www.lcv.org)

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) is the independent political voice for the environment. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the press.

LCV urges you to support H. Con. Res. 99, the Concurrent Budget Resolution for FY 2008. This year's budget resolution begins restoring funding in the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency, which have suffered deficiencies over the last several budgetary cycles. We should be investing in our natural resources, and passage of this budget resolution is an excellent step in that direction.

After years of neglect and declining funding, this resolution restores significant levels of funding for our natural resources and environmental protection. (Function 300.) The budget provides more than \$2.5 billion over the President's request for this function. This increased funding will mean more federal resources will be available for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the State and Tribal Assistance grants for clean air and clean water, and other programs that protect public health and enhance conservation, as well as for our oceans. These programs affect every state and lead to enormous public health and environmental benefits.

Over the last several years, environmental funding has suffered disproportionately compared to other discretionary funding areas. Programs have been cut back, or funded at a "flat" rate, leading to loss in real dollar terms due to inflation. Fortunately, H. Con. Res. 99 reverses that trend and signals the hopeful beginning of a new trend that protects the resources that Americans so dearly value.

We urge you to support restoring balance to environmental funding by voting YES on H. Con. Res. 99, the Concurrent Budget Resolution for FY 2008. LCV has scored votes on environmental funding in recent years, and we will consider including this vote in the 2007 *Scorecard*. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld or Nat Mund at my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski  
President



**NATIONAL LOW INCOME  
HOUSING COALITION**

*Dedicated solely to ending America's  
affordable housing crisis*

March 26, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman, House Budget Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt,

On behalf of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, I want to thank you for your leadership in developing the FY08 budget resolution and, in particular, for your efforts in shifting budget priorities to human needs including low income housing.

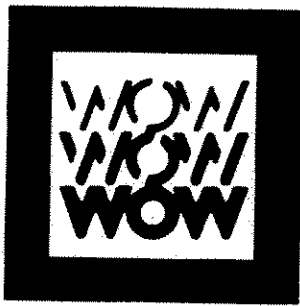
By increasing domestic discretionary spending by \$12.3 billion more than the FY07 domestic spending level, the Committee has signaled a commitment to ensuring that low income housing programs are protected from further cuts. Moreover, this year these programs might be able to be expanded to address the long neglected shortage of housing that the lowest income people can afford. Today, there is a shortage of 2,835,000 homes affordable for extremely low income renter households, those with incomes at or below 30% of area median income.

We are especially pleased with the inclusion of funding in the FY08 budget resolution for an Affordable Housing Fund in the Government Sponsored Enterprises legislation that Congress is considering. The Affordable Housing Fund, targeted to extremely low income families, is the first step in helping to solve the affordable housing crisis in our country.

The FY08 budget resolution that the House Budget Committee has approved shows the nation that the priorities of this Congress include helping all families obtain decent, safe and affordable housing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sheila Crowley  
President



## **Wider Opportunities for Women**

March 23, 2007

Dear Representative:

Wider Opportunities for Women urges your support the 2008 budget resolution reported by the House Budget Committee. The measure makes a significant first step to restore funding for programs that help families and seniors attain a self-sufficient income through employment and/or gap-filling assistance in the form of health care, child care, Food Stamps and other programs.

WOW works to achieve economic independence and equality of opportunity for women and girls. For more than 40 years, WOW has helped women learn to earn, with programs emphasizing literacy, technical and nontraditional skills, the welfare-to-work transition and career development. Since 1964, WOW has trained more than 10,000 women for well paid work. WOW leads the National Family Economic Self Sufficiency Project and the Elder Economic Self Sufficiency Project.

WOW endorses the committee resolution's pay-as-you-go approach to proposals that either increase spending or decrease revenue by requiring offsets that do not increase the deficit. We are also aware that if Congress fails to approve a budget resolution this year, the House will be bound by the budget that passed the House in 2006 even though it was never conferenced.

We are pleased that the committee budget rejects the harsh cuts the Administration proposed for domestic programs and reverses the trend of the past six years. Nevertheless, to address mounting needs, we would have preferred that the committee had gone further than the \$12.4 billion after-inflation increase it allows for non-defense discretionary programs.

The resolution assumes a \$3 billion increase over current services for education, training and social services. Between fiscal 2002 and 2006, adult training under the Workforce Investment Act was cut by 18 percent after inflation. The President's request for 2008 would have reduced WIA programs by another 22 percent below current spending. While we believe the committee resolution is still not sufficient to restore service levels and meet growing needs, it does represent a turn-around from recent years.

The resolution creates a \$50 billion reserve fund to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program to expand coverage. It also permits new Head Start and child care spending, as long as an equal amount of revenues or savings is secured. This will help restore assistance for the 150,000 children who have lost child care in the last five years. In WOW's calculation of self-sufficiency standards in 36 states and the District of Columbia, we have found that in most places, child care is the most expensive part of the family budget for those who have pre-school children.

For example, in 2006 a working adult with one pre-schooler and one infant in Erie, PA, would have needed \$1,009 for child care per month, or 35 percent of her total monthly self-sufficiency budget of \$2,843. Child care is essential for women in school or skills training programs preparing for jobs sufficient to support their families.

We are pleased that the budget resolution contains a "sense of the House" statement that part of the \$20 billion in new funding for farm bill reauthorization would go to food stamps and other food security programs.

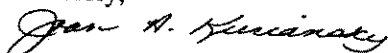
The resolution protects Medicare beneficiaries from premium increases, a major worry of low-income elders across the nation. In Boston, the Elder Economic Security Standard developed by WOW and the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston, seniors need to pay between \$269 and \$313 per month for adequate Medicare coverage including Medicare premiums, co-pays, and out-of-pocket costs. The Elder Standard demonstrates that, on average, health care costs consume over 20 percent of the income elders need to meet their most basic costs. With the average annual Social Security income at \$12,024 and three out of ten elders relying solely upon Social Security as their retirement income, many are already forced to make difficult decisions between putting food on the table and paying for much need health care services.

The budget also enables the Congress to establish an affordable housing fund targeted at the critical housing needs of the Gulf Coast. Housing is also among the largest single costs for both elders and families that do not need pre-school child care.

WOW is mindful that a group of moderate Republicans has endorsed increases beyond inflation for health care, education, vocational education and economic development. We are also aware that budget substitutes are expected to be introduced that provide more than the budget committee resolution for non-defense discretionary programs. We believe these are encouraging signs.

In the end, we will appreciate your support for the budget resolution reported out of the House Budget Committee as well as any substitute that goes further in the directions described above.

Sincerely,



Joan A. Kuriansky  
Executive Director



F·R·A·C



FOOD RESEARCH  
& ACTION CENTER

March 27, 2007

Chairman John Spratt  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1401 Longworth Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt

The House Budget Committee's FY 2008 budget resolution provides an opportunity to make modest but important progress in the fight against hunger. It rejects cuts to the nutrition safety net proposed by the President's budget and instead allows for potential new investments vitally needed to improve the adequacy and reach of food stamp benefits. We will support its passage even as we continue to seek broader relief for our nation's hungry people.

We believe that the testimony that Boston pediatrician Deborah Frank and South Carolina food banker Denise Holland presented to your committee on February 15 made clear the urgency of the problem of hunger in America, especially for our nation's children. According to U.S. Census Bureau/USDA data, more than 35 million people in the U.S. – 12.4 million of them children – live in households that face a constant struggle against hunger. Food stamp benefits provide a first defense against hunger but are too meager to solve the problem. Food stamp benefits average just \$1 per person per meal. The minimum monthly benefit is stuck at the decades-old level of \$10. The program is missing four in ten eligible people. Moreover, many vulnerable populations are excluded from eligibility, including many lawfully present immigrants and low-income jobless adults willing to work.

The 2007 reauthorization of the Farm Bill can and must correct for gaps in the food stamp program. Our top priority for the Farm Bill remains new investments to strengthen the Food Stamp Program.

The House Budget Committee's five-year \$20 billion reserve fund for Farm Bill reauthorization provides a framework for making a downpayment on food stamp improvements. It is preferable to the Senate's Farm Bill reserve level of \$15 billion. While we are disappointed that neither the House nor Senate Farm Bill reserve fund is actually financed nor as large as the financed amount set aside for the 2002 Farm Bill, we believe the House Budget Resolution Farm Bill reserve fund does provide a framework for securing new investments in the Food Stamp Program.

We appreciate that the House Budget Resolution rejects cuts to the nutrition safety net proposed by the President's budget. It rejects the change in food stamp "categorical eligibility" that would drop 329,000 people in low-income working families with children from the food stamp rolls. It rejects the elimination of the commodity supplemental food program. And it rejects cuts to WIC



## Ohio CSEA Directors' Association

37 West Broad Street, Suite 1170, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone (614) 228-5551 ♦ Fax (614) 228-5554 ♦ e-mail: [www.ocda.us](http://www.ocda.us)

Kimberly C. Newsom Bridges, Esq.  
Executive Director

Pat Pekar, President  
Scioto County

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman, House Budget Committee  
Room 207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6065

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Ohio Child Support Enforcement Agency Directors Association, thank you for including language in the House budget resolution calling attention to the child support program. Without action later in the year by the authorizing committees to restore cuts made by the Deficit Reduction Act, Ohio's counties would face a funding loss of \$60 million dollars in total spending power. This represents 28% of local expenditures on the program in FFY2005. It is estimated that will result in the decrease in child support collections of \$197 million during the first five years. Additionally, our abilities to answer phone calls, communicate with families and establish new orders will be tremendously impacted.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. We are willing to assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Kimberly C. Newsom Bridges, Director

Susan Brown  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Delaware County

Rob Pierson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Stark County

Cindy Libster  
Treasurer  
Morrow County

Virginia Martycz  
Secretary  
Clark County

Marjorie Butler  
Canton/Cleveland Dist.  
President, Wayne County

Mitchell Bonham  
Cincinnati Dist. President  
Warren County

Lisa Merkle  
Member At Large  
Allen County

Tonya Lock  
Columbus Dist. President  
Coshocton County

Penny Jacobs-Theis  
Toledo Dist. President  
Seneca County



# AFSCME

*American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO*

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March 27, 2007

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to support the House Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008.

We believe the House FY 2008 Budget Resolution should be approved because it rejects cuts to services critical to working families contained in President Bush's budget while restoring fiscal discipline by requiring that any new tax breaks must be paid for. Specifically, the resolution allows up to \$50 billion in new spending over five years for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to protect current enrollees from losing their health coverage and protect more uninsured children; provides an increase of over \$3 billion for education, training and social services, rejecting the Administration's proposal to cut federal support for Head Start, No Child Left Behind programs, special education and other programs; increases funds for Head Start and child care, rejecting President Bush's flat funding for child care while 150,000 children have lost child care subsidies over the past five years; and rejects the President's cut in the Social Services Block Grant program. These are all important priorities for our nation that must be adequately funded.

The House Budget Resolution marks an important first step in restoring fiscal responsibility and in restoring funding for critical services on which working families rely. We strongly support its adoption.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Loveless  
Director of Legislation

CML:fbf



# COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW \* Suite 910 \* Washington, DC 20036 \* 202.223.2532 \* [www.chn.org](http://www.chn.org)

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Center on Budget and Policy  
Priorities

Khalid Pitts  
Service Employees  
International Union

Randi Schmidt  
YWCA USA

Julie Ward  
Consortium for Citizens with  
Disabilities

Dinah Wiley  
National Immigration Law  
Center

Nancy Wisdo  
U.S. Catholic Conference

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt Jr.  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

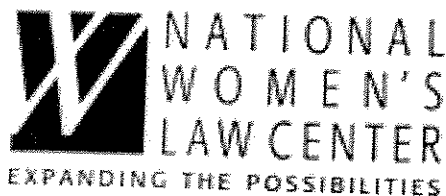
Dear Chairman Spratt:

The Coalition on Human Needs supports the important new direction represented in the FY 2008 budget approved by the House Committee on the Budget. We commend you for rejecting the cuts in human needs programs proposed by the President. By doing so, you have protected hundreds of thousands of people in low-income working families from losing food stamps and preserved health insurance for thousands of children. Your budget spares many other programs serving needy people and communities from cuts. Stopping more damage to services that have been eroded for years is a vital first step.

By establishing a deficit neutral reserve fund of \$50 billion for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), your budget allows Congress to make genuine progress towards covering all eligible children. The \$20 billion reserve fund for implementation of the farm bill, along with the Sense of the House language highlighting the need to maintain and build upon efforts to fight hunger, encourages Congress to make improvements to the Food Stamp Program a priority within the farm bill. We are grateful to the Committee for its inclusion of Sense of the House language in support of more child support enforcement resources to enable states to collect and pass on to families the child support their children are owed. Further, the funding in the budget to help rebuild lives and communities affected by Hurricane Katrina is extremely important.

The Coalition on Human Needs supports the House Budget Committee's requirements that new tax cuts be paid for, as part of the budget resolution's even-handed approach to pay-as-you-go. Our members understand that adequate funding for human needs depends on adequate revenues. We believe your approach is responsible, not only because it requires replacement revenues or spending cuts for new or extended tax breaks, but also because it makes a priority of closing tax loopholes and collecting taxes already owed. The House Budget Committee pay-as-you-go provisions ought to be in the final budget resolution approved by Congress; we strongly urge you to reject any effort to exempt tax cuts enacted since 2001 from pay-go rules.

The Budget Committee's funding for the domestic discretionary functions is \$12.4 billion more than current spending plus inflation, or about a 3 percent increase above baseline. We appreciate that the domestic spending in your



March 27, 2007

Dear Representative:

The National Women's Law Center is writing in support of H.Con. Res. 99 as voted out by the House Budget Committee. For women and their families, this budget represents a long awaited change in priorities.

H.Con. Res. 99 rejects the cuts to vital services proposed in President Bush's budget, and provides for some much-needed investments in the lives of women and children. In particular, the Center is pleased that the House 2008 budget authorizes up to \$50 billion in new spending over five years for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), to be paid for by new revenues or savings. The SCHIP reserve fund is a first step toward a successful reauthorization of one of our most critical national health policies, and would provide the budgetary flexibility needed to continue covering parents as well as children. In contrast, the President's budget provides only \$2 billion in new federal funding for SCHIP, an amount insufficient to protect coverage for those currently enrolled, much less to expand coverage for the uninsured. The House budget also includes a modest increase for domestic discretionary spending, which would permit the House Appropriations Committee to reverse years of freezes and cuts to Head Start, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, education and training, and other services that are of special importance to low-income women and their families. In addition, the House budget calls for additional legislative action to ensure that states have the resources needed to collect all the child support owed to families.

The Center also strongly supports H.Con Res. 99 for requiring that new tax cuts be paid for, consistent with the pay-as-you-go rule adopted by the House earlier this year. The resolution does not preclude Congress from enacting new tax cuts or extending some expiring tax cuts, but does require that it find a way to make up for the lost revenue. This nation cannot afford to continue to sacrifice services vital to the well-being of our families and communities to pay for more tax breaks for the wealthy few, nor continue to mortgage our nation's future with mounting debt. The House budget's common-sense approach to tax policy represents a significant step toward re-establishing fiscal priorities that responsibly address the needs of all Americans.

The Law Center strongly urges you to vote to pass H.Con. Res. 99, and looks forward to working with you to enact legislation that will protect and promote women's priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joan Entmacher'.

Joan Entmacher

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Nancy Duff Campbell'.

Nancy Duff Campbell



## **National Child Support Enforcement Association**

Hall of the States • 444 North Capitol Street • Suite 414 • Washington, DC 20001-1512  
Phone: 202-624-8180 • FAX: 202-624-8828 • E-mail: [ncsea@ncsea.org](mailto:ncsea@ncsea.org) • Website: [www.ncsea.org](http://www.ncsea.org)

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Chairman  
Budget Committee  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Cannon House Office Building, Room B-71  
Washington, DC

I am sending this letter on behalf of the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) in strong support of the language in Section 512 of the House Congressional Resolution 99 (the House Budget Resolution). The Resolution recognizes that additional legislation is required to ensure that states have sufficient funding to collect child support owed to families. This continues your on-going leadership and recognition of the importance of the regular receipt of child support to the children of our nation. The language supports the repeal of the negative impacts of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 with regard to federal funding for the program.

NCSEA is a nonprofit, membership organization representing the child support community - a workforce of over 60,000. NCSEA's mission is to promote the well-being of children through professional development of its membership, advocacy, and public awareness. NCSEA's membership includes line/managerial/executive child support staff; state and local agencies; judges; court masters; hearing officers; government and private attorneys; social workers; advocates; corporations that partner with government to provide child support services and private collection firms.

The child support enforcement program operates in all states as provided by Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act. The program enjoys healthy partnerships with the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, and a large and varied group of stakeholders. Courts and law enforcement officials carry out many of the day to day functions; employers collect almost 80% of child support through income withholding, hospitals assist with paternity acknowledgment, and other state and local agencies provide enforcement services and related services to assist obligors in finding and maintaining employment. We share a common mission that is reflected in the program's National Strategic Plan:

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Chief of Police,  
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**Executive Director**

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**Washington**

Laura Wells  
206-664-7110



3,000 Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,  
Prosecutors, other Law Enforcement  
Leaders, and Violence Survivors  
Preventing Crime and Violence

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt  
1401 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt:

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS is an anti-crime organization of more than 3,000 sheriffs, police chiefs, district attorneys, and victims of violence from across the country who have come together to take a hard-nosed look at the research about what works to keep kids from engaging in crime and violence. The research confirms what law enforcement leaders see on the front lines - investments in kids like quality early childhood education, child abuse and neglect prevention, after-school programs and interventions for troubled youth are critical to our nation's public safety. **We hope the Fiscal Year 2008 House Budget (H.Con.Res.99) passes, because it will allow for increased investments in proven crime-prevention approaches. Although the funding in the House Budget will not be sufficient to meet the full need for crime-prevention investments in kids, this budget is a good first step toward ensuring that more kids have access to Head Start, quality child care, abuse and neglect prevention through the Social Services Block Grant, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.**

For example, the research is clear that Head Start and quality child care not only help close the achievement gap, they prevent crime and save money. At-risk kids who were left out of the high-quality High / Scope Perry preschool program were five times more likely to be chronic offenders (more than four arrests) by age 27 than those who participated. Preventing crime and improving other outcomes produces up to \$17 in savings for every \$1 invested in quality early education. Unfortunately, Head Start only serves about half of eligible, low-income kids, while only one in seven kids in eligible, low-income families receives help from the Child Care and Development Block Grant. We are pleased that the budget includes an assumption of increased funding for Head Start and child care.

In addition, we are pleased that the budget rejects the Administration's proposed cut to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and includes funding for reauthorization and expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). SSBG provides funding for proven child abuse and neglect prevention approaches like in-home parent coaching programs, which in turn prevent later crime. SCHIP coverage can help ensure that behavioral and emotional problems and mental illnesses are identified and treated promptly, preventing more serious problems - including delinquency and adult crime - later on.

Passage of the House Budget Committee's proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget will be an important first step toward greater investments in kids to help them become productive, taxpaying adults rather than a burden on taxpayers and part of our criminal justice system. We look forward to working with you to ensure that these crucial investments in our children's future and our public safety are made a reality.

Sincerely,

David S. Kass  
Executive Director

Miriam A. Rollin  
Vice President



March 27, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Chairman  
Budget Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Cannon House Office Building, Room B-71  
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Spratt:

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo), I thank you for including language in the budget resolution (Sec. 512 of H. Cong. Res. 99) stating that additional legislative action is needed to ensure that states have sufficient funding to collect child support owed to families.

This language recognizes the effect of the cuts to the child support program made under the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA). The DRA will undercut state and county progress in establishing child support for families and ultimately will affect millions of children whose families depend on the payments to meet daily living expenses.

If Congress does not repeal or modify the child support provisions, federal administrative support for the program will be reduced by at least \$1.6 billion over the next five years and families will lose at least \$2.9 billion in uncollected support over the first five years and \$8.4 billion over the next ten years.

NACo recently had the opportunity to testify before the Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee. In preparation for the hearing we conducted a quick survey of state associations of counties to find out the effect of the child support cuts. Here is a snapshot of what we found:

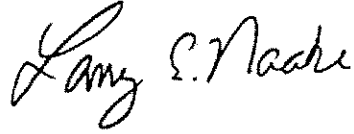
In California, the child support cuts will reduce funding to the state's program by over \$90 million a year. Michigan counties face a potential loss of \$28 million. The loss in Minnesota is estimated at \$23 million. Indiana counties face a shortfall of over \$7 million. New York counties expect to lose \$10 million a year. North Carolina Counties expect to lose \$5.3 million in revenues. Ohio expects a reduction of \$60 million a year. Pennsylvania counties may lose over \$ 4 million in two incentive payments. When the cuts take full effect next year, the projected loss for Wisconsin counties by 2008 is \$25 million.

These administrative losses will have a ripple effect on the operation of the program. Many counties will be forced to reduce child support enforcement staff, which will in turn lead to fewer collections.



The program supports children and families, promotes personal responsibility and, in an average state, returns over \$4 per \$1 invested in it. More than 17 million children were served by child support in 2005 – more children than any other public program except public education. Restoring the cuts will help continue the success of the child support enforcement program. I thank you once again for taking this important step toward achieving that goal.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry E. Naake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry E. Naake  
Executive Director.

# Association of Child Support Attorneys Of Los Angeles County

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Chairman  
Budget Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Cannon House Office Building, Room B-71  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt,

On behalf of the Association of Child Support Attorneys of Los Angeles County (ACSA), I commend and thank you for including Sense of the House language in House Congressional Resolution 99 by the House Budget Committee that says, among other things, as follows:

*"...(1) additional legislative action is needed to ensure that States have the necessary resources to collect all child support that is owed to families..."*

As you are aware, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) threatens to undermine the remarkable progress and accomplishments made since 1996 in the enforcement of child support under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. The child support enforcement program is now at severe risk due to alterations in the funding scheme enacted as part of the DRA. There are three provisions, specifically, that hurt child support programs operated by state and local governments:

1. The DRA's most consequential change prohibits states from matching the incentive dollars that they earn through effective and productive program operations with Federal Financial Participation (FFP);
2. The DRA requires states to administer and account for a \$25 fee for never-TANF cases with annual collections of \$500 or more; and
3. The DRA reduces the FFP match for parentage testing from 90% to 66%.

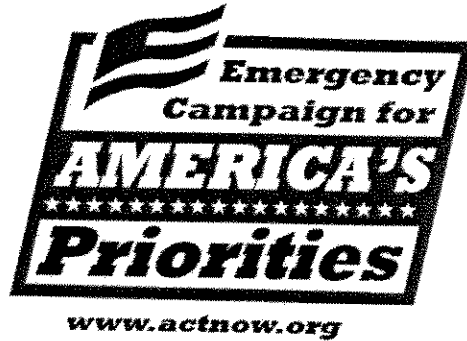
ACSA looks forward to working with you and other members of Congress to see that the Sense of the House Resolution that you have authored is realized in the form of restored funding for an increasingly effective federal, state, and local partnership that helps ensure the economic well-being of America's children and families.

Sincerely,



Wayne D. Doss  
President

Post Office Box 911425 ♦ Los Angeles, California 90091-1238



March 27, 2007

The Honorable  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Emergency Campaign for America's Priorities (ECAP), we are writing in support of passage of the House 2008 Budget as approved by the House Budget Committee. It represents a fundamental shift in priorities from the unfair budgets of the past six years and is an important step towards the "First Things First" agenda supported by ECAP.

Most significantly, the resolution reverses years of budgets that gave a free pass to budget-busting tax cuts. It adheres to the requirement that new tax breaks, as well as new mandatory spending, be paid for, and prioritizes closing tax loopholes, ending tax shelters, and collecting taxes that are already due – steps that will help restore fairness to the tax system and provide the revenues needed to address pressing human needs. The resolution does not preclude Congress from enacting new tax cuts or extending expiring tax cuts, but does require that it find a way to make up for the lost revenue. *It is critical that the House hold firmly to the pay-as-you-go provisions in the Budget Committee's resolution, rejecting efforts to exempt some or all of the tax cuts enacted since 2001 from its application.*

The budget rejects the cuts to vital services proposed in President Bush's budget and provides for some much-needed increases in investments in our families and communities. For example, the House 2008 budget authorizes up to \$50 billion in new spending over five years for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), to be paid for by new revenues or savings. In contrast, the President's budget provides only \$4.8 billion in new federal funding for children's health, an amount insufficient to protect coverage for those currently enrolled, much less to expand coverage for uninsured children. The House Budget also allows for \$20 billion in new spending for farm and nutrition programs, to be paid for by new revenue or savings, and emphasizes that the fight against hunger makes Food Stamps and other nutrition programs high priorities. In addition, the Budget provides a tool that would help to establish an affordable housing fund and calls for additional legislative action to ensure that states have the resources needed to collect child support owed to families. *We urge the House to protect and strengthen these vital priorities by agreeing to no less than the House Budget Committee's provisions.*

The additional funding provided in this budget for domestic discretionary programs –\$12.4 billion, once adjusted for inflation – is a significant improvement over the President's budget; however, it fails to provide sufficient funding to meet the pressing human needs that have been mounting for the past six years. ECAP has supported \$450 billion in domestic discretionary spending for FY 2008 because our nation must reverse the erosion of services – health, housing, education, nutrition, and more – that has hurt families and communities. *Because the need is great, we urge the House to reject attempts to reduce its level of funding for domestic discretionary programs, at a minimum, and to seize opportunities to make additional funding available for critical services as the budget process moves forward.*

The budget resolution approved by the House Budget Committee begins the process of restoring America's priorities. We urge you to support that process by opposing provisions that either cut or restrict domestic services or allow tax breaks that are not paid for. We believe that if the forward steps of the Budget Committee's resolution remain intact or are strengthened, the budget resolution deserves your support. We look forward to working with you to build on this progress in putting "First Things First."

Sincerely,

American Academy of HIV Medicine  
 American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)  
 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
 American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)  
 Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)  
 Arizona Advocacy Network  
 Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs  
 Campaign for America's Future (CAF)  
 Coalition on Human Needs  
 CODEPINK  
 Easter Seals  
 Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)  
 Legal Momentum  
 National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
 National Community Action Foundation  
 National Council of Jewish Women  
 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
 National Head Start Association  
 National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)  
 National Priorities Project  
 National Women's Law Center (NWLC)  
 NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
 Ocean State Action  
 OMB Watch  
 People For the American Way (PFAW)  
 RESULTS  
 Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
 The ARC of the US

United Cerebral Palsy  
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)  
United for a Fair Economy  
USAction  
United States Student Association (USSA)  
Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)  
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)



# Child Support Directors Association of California

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Chairman  
Budget Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Cannon House Office Building, Room B-71  
Washington, DC 20515

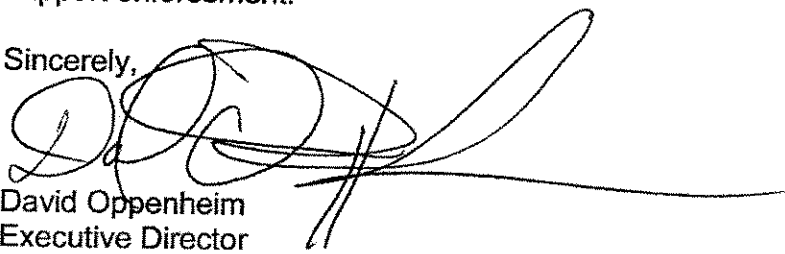
Dear Chairman Spratt:

On behalf of the Child Support Directors of Association I want to thank you for including in your budget a call for additional legislative action to ensure that states have the resources needed to collect all child support that is owed to families and to allow them to pass through all the child support that is collected to families without financial penalty.

Child support helps families escape poverty, provide for their children's needs, and avoid a return to welfare. But the cuts to child support enforcement funding included in last year's Deficit Reduction Act will significantly reduce child support collections for families and impede paternity establishment, as states and counties reduce staff, forgo computer upgrades, and abandon promising initiatives. According to preliminary estimates from the Congressional Budget Office, \$11 billion in child support will go uncollected over the next ten years if the funding is not restored. The legislative action your budget endorses would keep a decade of progress in child support enforcement from unraveling, and would enable states that choose to pass through more child support to families to do so without penalty.

We recognize that there are many competing priorities that must be considered when developing the budget. With that in mind, I would like to thank you for developing a budget that calls for a significant change in priorities-including action to protect child support enforcement.

Sincerely,



David Oppenheim  
Executive Director  
CSDA



March 27, 2007

The Honorable  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the USAction, I am writing in support of passage of the House 2008 budget as approved by the House Budget Committee. It represents a fundamental shift away from the upside-down budget priorities of the past six years and is an important step toward the "First Things First" agenda supported by USAction and our partners in the Emergency Campaign for America's Priorities.

The budget rejects the cuts to vital services proposed in President Bush's budget and provides for some much-needed increases in investments in our families and communities. For example, the House 2008 budget authorizes up to \$50 billion in new spending over five years for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), to be paid for by new revenues or savings. In contrast, the president's budget provides only \$4.8 billion in new federal funding for children's health, an amount insufficient to protect coverage for those currently enrolled, much less to expand coverage for uninsured children. The House budget also allows for \$20 billion in new spending for farm and nutrition programs, to be paid for by new revenue or savings, and emphasizes that the fight against hunger makes Food Stamps and other nutrition programs high priorities. In addition, the budget provides a tool that would help to establish an affordable housing fund and calls for additional legislative action to ensure that states have the resources needed to collect child support owed to families. *USAction urges the House to protect and strengthen these vital priorities by agreeing to no less than the House Budget Committee's provisions.*

The additional funding provided in this budget for domestic discretionary programs – \$12.4 billion, once adjusted for inflation – is a significant improvement over the president's budget, but six years of neglect to vital services have resulted in a crisis of unmet human needs that such a modest increase is insufficient to remedy. USAction and ECAP have pushed for \$450 billion in domestic discretionary spending for FY 2008 because our nation must reverse the erosion of health, housing, education, nutrition and other services, which has hurt families and communities. *Because the need is great, USAction urges the House to set the budget committee's domestic funding increase as an absolute minimum, and to actively pursue opportunities to make additional funding available for critical services as the budget process moves forward.*

Finally, the resolution reverses years of budgets that gave a free pass to budget-busting tax cuts and allowed millionaires and corporate interests to avoid paying their fair share. It adheres to the requirement that new tax breaks, as well as new mandatory spending, be paid for, and prioritizes closing tax loopholes, ending tax shelters, and collecting taxes that are already due – steps that will help restore fairness and progressivity to the tax system and provide the revenues needed to address pressing human needs. The resolution does not preclude Congress from enacting new tax cuts or extending expiring tax cuts, but does require that it find a way to make up for the lost revenue. *It is critical that the House hold firmly to the pay-as-you-go provisions in the Budget Committee's*

1825 K Street NW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20006

Phone: (202) 263-4520 Fax: (202) 263-4530

[www.usaction.org](http://www.usaction.org)



# U.S. Public Interest Research Group

## National Association of State PIRGs

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Ohio PIRG  
Oregon State PIRG  
Pennsylvania PIRG  
Rhode Island PIRG  
Texas PIRG  
Vermont PIRG  
Washington PIRG  
Wisconsin PIRG

March 27, 2007

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of citizen and student members of U.S. PIRG we urge you to support House Con. Resolution 99, the House budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2008. This budget framework includes meaningful increases for health care, higher education and environmental spending.

### Health Care

The budget resolution includes provisions requiring at least \$50 billion for the State Children's Health Insurance Program over the next five years. This funding will ensure that no child currently enrolled or eligible for SCHIP will lose coverage because of a federal funding shortfall. SCHIP provides quality, affordable, vital health care coverage to more than 4 million children who would otherwise be uninsured.

### Higher Education

The proposal restores cuts to programs included in the President's FY08 proposal to critical programs like Leveraging Educational Assistance Program (LEAP) Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG). In addition the budget provides an additional \$3 billion for education spending that could be devoted to increasing critical programs like the Pell Grant. The Pell Grant helps more than 5 million of the neediest students access and afford a college education.

### Environment

The programs that safeguard our environment and public health have suffered significant cuts in recent years. Enacting the President's fiscal year 2008 budget request would have serious impacts for the environment and natural resources on which our health and economy depend. The House budget takes an important step toward better protecting our air, water, public lands, parks, and wildlife, by providing \$2.6 billion more in appropriated funds for the Natural Resources and Environment Budget Authority than the President's budget. The measure proposes more than \$31 billion for FY 2008 for function 300, which is the primary funding source for key programs at EPA, the Interior Department, Army Corps of Engineers and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. We are also pleased to see that the budget does not assume revenue from oil-and-gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or federal land sales.

The House budget proposal provides for meaningful increases to critical federal programs. On all of these issues, more must be done in the future but we urge your support of this resolution as a step toward affordable health care, access to higher education and a cleaner environment.

Sincerely,

Anna Aurilio  
Washington, DC Office Director





Janet Murguía, President  
March 27, 2007

**National Office**  
Raul Yzaguirre Building  
1126 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: 202.785.1670  
Fax: 202.776.1792  
www.nclr.org

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., I urge you to vote "Yes" on the budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 99). This budget resolution reverses negative trends in previous budgets by rejecting cuts in domestic programs vital to ensuring educational, economic, and homeownership opportunities, as well as health care coverage and nutrition assistance, for Hispanics and other Americans.

A large number of the nation's 42 million Hispanics are currently in the workforce contributing to our nation's economic security. Hispanics are also a significant proportion of the current and future student population. NCLR believes that wise investments in programs with the potential to prepare Latinos for postsecondary education and the workforce and to provide for their health care, housing, and income security would strengthen our nation's economy as a whole.

Previous budget resolutions failed to support these priorities. H. Con. Res. 99 takes steps toward strengthening our nation's schools and future workforce, increasing Latino homeownership, and enhancing Latinos' health and well-being. Specifically, H. Con. Res. 99 includes:

- Increased budget authority for education and job training programs
- A reserve fund for affordable housing
- A reserve fund of \$50 billion for fiscal years 2008 through 2012 for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- A reserve fund of \$20 billion for fiscal years 2007 through 2012 for the Department of Agriculture, including nutrition programs
- Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) budgeting that includes PAYGO for tax cuts

NCLR urges Congress to vote "Yes" on H. Con. Res. 99. NCLR will recommend that the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLEA) include votes associated with H. Con. Res. 99 in its 110<sup>th</sup> Congressional Scorecard.

Sincerely,

Janet Murguía  
President and CEO

**Regional Offices:** Atlanta, Georgia • Chicago, Illinois • Los Angeles, California • New York, New York  
Phoenix, Arizona • Sacramento, California • San Antonio, Texas • San Juan, Puerto Rico

LA RAZA: The Hispanic People of the New World



March 26, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Chair  
U.S. House of Representative Committee  
on Budget  
1401 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Spratt:

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the largest national nonprofit cross-disability member organization in the United States, writes to urge you and every Member of the House of Representatives to support the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution as drafted and adopted by the House Budget Committee. The spending priorities articulated in this Budget Resolution signal that Congress understands the importance of addressing the needs of people with disabilities and the consequences of perpetuating existing deficiencies in the disability service system.

Under this Budget Resolution, vital programs and supports for people with disabilities are aided rather than neglected or eliminated. This Budget Resolution will strengthen special education funding, facilitating school systems to better identify qualified educators. It will help sustain critical job training programs during a time in which staggeringly high unemployment rates persist for people with disabilities. And it will protect HUD disability housing programs from budgetary elimination.

AAPD urges you and every Member of the House of Representatives to take a leadership role in supporting the Budget Resolution as adopted by the Budget Committee. In so doing, you send an unmistakable message that you are concerned about the needs of people with disabilities and their families and are committed to starting in a direction to address them.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Imparato". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "A".

Andrew J. Imparato  
President and CEO

## CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

March 26, 2007

Dear Chairman Spratt,

We write on behalf of the of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Fiscal Policy Task Force in support of your proposed Fiscal Year 2008 House budget resolution that will be considered this week.

The House proposal provides significantly more money than the President's Budget request for discretionary and mandatory programs that help people with disabilities participate fully in the community, such as discretionary employment and education programs as well as important mandatory health and long term services and supports programs. The proposal rejects cuts proposed in the President's budget to numerous programs that support individuals with disabilities, such as supported employment, assistive technology, and the Social Services and Maternal and Child Health Block Grants, just to name a few. The House plan also rejects attempts to use reconciliation instructions that have been used in past budget plans to make further cuts to entitlement programs on which so many low-income individuals and families with disabilities depend.

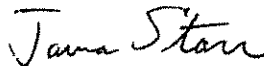
The CCD is a coalition of national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

We thank you for crafting a plan that is fiscally responsible and contains the right priorities for the over 54 million Americans with disabilities and other low-income populations. We look forward to working with you in urging the Congress to adopt this budget.

Respectfully,



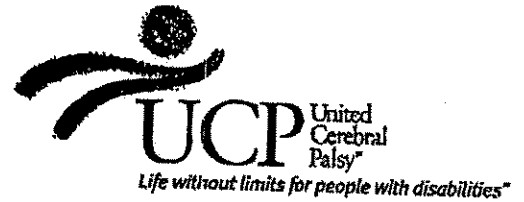
Donna Meltzer  
Epilepsy Foundation



Janna Starr  
The Arc and UCP Disability  
Policy Collaboration



Kim Musheno  
Association of University  
Centers on Disabilities



March 26, 2007

1660 L Street, NW • Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036  
TEL 800.USA.5UCP/202.776.0406  
TTY 800.872.5827  
FAX 202.776.0414

Dear Member of Congress;

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) is one of the nation's leading organizations serving and advocating for the more than 54 million Americans with disabilities. Its mission is to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with disabilities through an affiliate network. Over half of UCP consumers are people with disabilities other than cerebral palsy. Through its nationwide affiliate's network, UCP provides job training and placement, physical therapy, individual and family support, early intervention, social and recreation programs, community living, and other services and supports to individuals with disabilities and their families.

We write you today in support of the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution that was crafted by the House Budget Committee. This Budget Resolution, for the first time in over a decade, provides hope for our families that their federal government is serious about starting to meet their needs. The spending priorities contained in this resolution now come much closer to addressing the many shortcomings in the disability service system. Medicaid will grow, not be attacked. Job training programs, in a time of huge unemployment rates for people with disabilities, are not slated for elimination. HUD disability housing programs will be protected from the budget axe. School systems will be better able to find qualified teachers through an increase in special education funding.

United Cerebral Palsy urges every Member of the House of Representatives to support the Budget Resolution as adopted by the Budget Committee. Your vote would send a clear signal to the millions of individuals with disabilities and their families: This Congress cares about you and will begin to address your needs.

Thank you so much for considering our views and for your support.

Stephen Bennett  
President and CEO



## The Arc of the United States

*People First, Visionary Leadership,  
Community Participation, Diversity, Integrity and Excellence*

Reply to:

☒ 1010 Wayne Ave., Suite 650  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 595-3842 (301) 665-3843 Fax

Reply to:

☐ 1600 L Street, NW, Suite 701  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 783-2229 (202) 783-8280 Fax

March 27, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

The Arc of the U.S. is our nation's largest and leading national organization working on behalf of children and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families. Our 850 state and local chapters provide vital services such as housing, job training, and leisure time activities as well as helping to secure their civil rights. There are over 7 million individuals with this condition in our country. Many require life long supports to survive. Most of these supports are financed through federal/state partnerships such as Medicaid, special education and vocational rehabilitation. Unfortunately, due to severe funding constraints, several hundred thousand of our constituents remain on waiting lists for vital services, putting immense pressure on their families.

We write you today in support of the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution that was crafted by the House Budget Committee. This Budget Resolution, for the first time in over a decade, provides hope for our families that their federal government is serious about starting to meet their needs. The spending priorities contained in this resolution now come much closer to addressing the many shortcomings in the disability service system. Medicaid will grow, not be attacked. Job training programs, in a time of huge unemployment rates for people with disabilities, are not slated for elimination. HUD disability housing programs will be protected from the budget axe. School systems will be better able to find qualified teachers through an increase in special education funding.

The Arc of the U.S. urges every Member of the House of Representatives to support the Budget Resolution as adopted by the Budget Committee. Your vote would send a clear signal to the millions of individuals with disabilities and their families: This Congress cares about you and will begin to address your needs.

Thank you so much for considering our views and for your support.

Sue Swenson  
Executive Director



**President**  
RICK WARSINSKEY  
Cleveland, OH

**Vice President**  
GREG HEINEMAN  
Norfolk, NE

**Secretary**  
PEGGY BUCHANAN  
Lufkin, TX

**Treasurer**  
JIM BURKERT  
Spokane, WA

**TSC Representative**  
KAY RHOADS  
Albuquerque, NM

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BILLIE ARMENTA  
Phoenix, AZ

**Immediate Past President**  
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Salisbury, NC

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Albany, OR

WASHINGTON  
REPRESENTATIVE  
RACHEL EMMONS  
Phone: (202) 547-8530  
Fax: (202) 547-8532

[rachele@greystone-group.com](mailto:rachele@greystone-group.com)

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SECURITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

418 C STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002  
TELEPHONE: (202) 547-8530  
FAX: (202) 547-8532

[www.ncssma.org](http://www.ncssma.org)

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt  
Chairman  
House Committee on Budget  
Room 207  
Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 3,400 members of the National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA). NCSSMA is a professional organization that represents Field Office and Teleservice Center management nationwide throughout the Social Security Administration.

We are very supportive and appreciative of the efforts of your committee to recommend additional resources for the Social Security Administration (SSA). We specifically agree with your committee's proposal to appropriate \$9.9 billion in discretionary funding for Fiscal Year 2008 for SSA – as well as the \$213.0 million dollar cap adjustment as called for in the President's Budget Request.

These additional resources will play a crucial role in addressing a critical and growing backlog of disability hearings cases. This backlog is currently almost three-quarters of a million cases and is projected to grow to one million cases by 2010 if something is not done now to address the situation. The average time to process a hearings case is now 506 days, and that processing time continues to increase. Nearly 300,000 cases have been pending over one year.

The efforts of your committee will also help many veterans. It is estimated there are nearly 125,000 veterans that have pending disability claims -- of which about half of these have pending hearings claims.

Many SSA Field Offices throughout the country are reaching a point where they cannot provide satisfactory service to the American public. They are being overwhelmed by the number of people visiting their offices in person and by telephone calls from the public that they cannot answer. In a survey of NCSSMA

members this past few weeks in which over 2,000 responded, over 80.0% stated that their office waiting times for the public had increased in the past two years. About a third said that waiting times were significantly longer. In addition, about 80.0% of the respondents stated they did not have enough staff to keep their workloads current.

SSA Field Offices have lost over 2,300 positions in the last eighteen months. Nearly 1,200 interviewing positions have been lost in the past six months alone. These losses are accelerating as the agency doesn't have funding available to hire new employees. I have heard from hundreds of our NCSSMA members regarding the growing challenges they are facing. Here is just one example:

*"It is discouraging to keep being asked to do more with less and embarrassing to see the service you provide erode before your very eyes. Although we manage to keep our heads above water, the constant interviewing and long lines of people waiting to be seen are also impacting our staff. Even my most energetic staff members seem to be demoralized and anxious wanting to take care of their workloads and dealing with irate visitors who want to know what's taking so long to clear their cases."*

We are also reaching another critical period at SSA as we are on the very edge of the first group of baby boomers filing for retirement benefits. Next year will mark the beginning of a massive increase in the number of claims being filed. We are expecting an additional million people to be eligible for Social Security benefits per year, due solely to the baby boomers.

The situation at SSA is due in large part to a lack of funding. Our organization realizes that Congress faces many challenges in the current budget environment, but funding for SSA must be addressed if we are to provide appropriate levels of service to the American public. On behalf of our NCSSMA members nationwide and the constituents we serve, thank you for your leadership regarding additional funding for SSA. Increased resources for our agency would allow us to restore services that are so vital to the American public.

Sincerely,

Rick Warsinskey  
President

In the last 3 fiscal years SSA has lost approximately 8500 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff. The bulk of these losses have been to the front line employees who work in field offices. While some of this is lost overtime, most are actual employees. In the 1300 field offices that the union represents, SSA imposed a 1:8 replacement policy for lost staff in FY 07. In FY 08 there has been a total staffing freeze in both field offices and teleservice centers. While these staffing and overtime cuts have been implemented, new workloads have been assigned to SSA field and teleservice employees. Such new workloads include subsidy determinations for Medicare Part D applicants, appeals of premium adjustments for Medicare Part B beneficiaries who earn in excess of \$80,000, more stringent evidentiary requirements for the issuance of Social Security cards which has caused both lengthier and more interviews, and the introduction of Electronic Disability Claims Service (EDCS) which has resulted in lengthier initial disability interviews. Adding work to the beleaguered front line staff while cutting FTE and overtime has had a deleterious effect on employee morale and public service.

SSA has imposed a variety of restrictions to try to squeeze out more productivity from SSA employees. Actions such as restricting leave, mandating more "plug in time" for teleservice workers and reducing alternative work schedules have adversely affected morale. In a January 2007 Harris poll of the public designed to evaluate the services provided by 13 federal agencies, SSA was at the bottom of the list and the only Agency that received an overall negative evaluation. At one time in the recent past SSA was viewed by the public as one of the best federal agencies in delivering service. Now after substantial staffing cuts, SSA is at the bottom of the public acceptance list.

Many offices suffer from lengthy waiting times for interviews. Today it is increasingly difficult for callers to get through on the 800 number. When callers do get through, they are oftentimes faced with inordinate delays and placed in cue prior to having the call answered by a live agent. Lost call rates, where the caller hangs up in frustration before reaching an agent, have escalated significantly.

In the future workloads are projected by the Agency to increase due to the approaching retirement age of the baby boomers. As this generation approaches retirement, disability applications will also increase. Many SSA employees are also baby boomers and these experienced, veteran workers will be retiring soon. Appropriate funding of SSA administrative expenses is essential to provide sufficient personnel to process escalating workloads and to replace SSA employees who will be leaving the Agency.

The actions of the Budget Committee under your leadership will hopefully cause a necessary infusion of resources which will enable SSA to fulfill its mission. The union, on behalf of its members and the public that we service, applauds your decision to provide additional funding for SSA. Such funding has been desperately needed by the Agency. The American public benefits from an efficient Social Security Administration. Thanks again for your actions to achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Witold Skwierczynski", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Witold Skwierczynski  
President



National Committee to  
Preserve Social Security  
and Medicare



Barbara B. Kennelly  
President &  
Chief Executive Officer

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt:

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I write to express our support for the Social Security Administration (SSA) administrative funding levels in the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution (H. Con. Res. 99). The budget resolution's recommendation of \$9.9 billion for SSA's LAE makes room for the appropriators to adequately fund SSA so that the agency may continue delivering vital services to the retired and disabled.

In recent years, Congress has funded SSA below the level of the President's request leading to dramatically increased disability backlogs and funding shortages that have forced SSA to cut back on continuing disability reviews. As a result, hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable in our society have endured extraordinary delays in resolving their disability benefit claims. At the end of fiscal year 2006, about 1.3 million people were awaiting a decision on their initial claim or appeal for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability benefits.

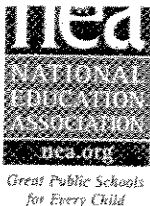
The budget resolution's allocation of \$9.9 billion for SSA administrative funding addresses long-ignored challenges facing seniors and the disabled including large backlogs in the Social Security disability system. The budget accommodates an additional \$213 million through a discretionary cap adjustment that will allow SSA to conduct an increasing number of Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs), which save the federal government \$10 for every \$1 spent. Moreover, the budget resolution provides a discretionary spending allocation to the Committee on Appropriations that is above the President's budget, allowing the appropriators to fund SSA above the level of the President's request without taking away from other programs.

Without proper funding, service delivery to the retired and disabled will continue to erode. As we prepare for the retirement of the first baby boomers in just two years, it is critically important that we provide SSA with sufficient resources to prevent any disruption of benefits and services. Again, we strongly support the FY 2008 Budget Resolution's funding allocation for SSA administrative expenses.

We applaud you for your continued leadership in this area.

Sincerely,

Barbara B. Kennelly  
President and CEO



1201 16th St., N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: 202.833.4000

Reg Weaver  
*President*

Dennis Van Roekel  
*Vice-President*

Lily Eskelsen  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

John I. Wilson  
*Executive Director*

March 26, 2007

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Education Association's (NEA) 3.2 million members, we urge your support for the fiscal year 2008 Congressional Budget Resolution. Votes associated with these issues may be included in the NEA Legislative Report Card for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The federal budget should reflect the priorities of our nation, and ensuring all of our children a quality education should be a top priority. Additional investments in proven programs such as Title I and IDEA special education as well as higher education programs such as Pell Grants are essential if we are to close achievement gaps and maximize the academic potential of every student. Many key education programs are currently underfunded and unable to fully serve all eligible students.

Given these critical needs, we are pleased that the proposed budget provides for a significant increase in funding for education programs over the level requested by the President. The proposal represents an essential down payment toward meeting the needs of underfunded programs and fulfilling every child's basic right to a great public school.

Again, we urge your support for the Budget Resolution.

Sincerely,

Diane Shust  
Director of Government Relations

Randall Moody  
Manager of Federal Advocacy



American Association of School Administrators

March 27, 2007

Congressman John M. Spratt Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Spratt:

On behalf of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), representing more than 14,000 school superintendents and local educational leaders, we urge you to support the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 99, the FY 2008 House Budget Resolution. This budget resolution takes an important step towards recognizing the importance of the federal investment in education. The House budget resolution would add \$7.9 billion over President Bush's FY 2008 budget proposal for education and workforce spending. While the proposed increase in education funding would make an important impact on local school district budgets, it would not fully meet the needs for school districts given the increased federal mandates.

As Congress moves forward on setting the funding levels for FY 2008, AASA strongly urges you to address the overwhelming need for funding in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act. Over the past several years, Congress has slipped backward in its commitment to fully fund IDEA. When IDEA was created in 1975, Congress recognized that school districts were going to face increased costs to serve students with disabilities. They promised to pay for 40 percent of the National Average per Pupil Expenditure for every child in special education. The federal share of IDEA has fallen steadily since reaching a high of 18.6 percent instead of the promised 40 percent in FY 2005.

As Congress reduces its commitment to special education, the cost burden for providing necessary special education services is passed on to the states and local school districts. For FY 2008, this cost shift to local school districts is over \$15 billion. This cost burden at the local level significantly impacts local school budgets. Because special education services must be provided regardless of cost, school districts are forced to steal from their general education budgets to cover the federal shortfall. It is time for Congress to live up to its commitment to school districts and the students they serve.

AASA also would like to see the additional education funding dedicated to increasing Title I and the education of our nation's poorest students. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, currently known as No Child Left Behind, continues to advocate for a disproportionate federal role in the daily

July 12, 2004

operation of local school districts based on the proportionate federal share in a local school district's budget. AASA strongly advocates for federal involvement in education as it relates to the highest poverty students. Therefore, AASA is asking for increased resources to be dedicated to Title I. This will ensure that local school districts have the greatest resources available to serve students in poverty.

Despite the positive efforts taken by this budget, AASA remains concerned about the potential elimination of school-based Medicaid claiming being proposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. We strongly urge the House Budget resolution to take into account funding for HR 1017, the *Protecting Children's Health in Schools Act*, which would help counteract any administrative action by CMS and reiterate the right of school districts to claim for administrative and transportation services related to providing health care services to Medicaid eligible students.

Finally, as priorities are established within the FY 2007 Congressional Budget Resolution, AASA asks you to remember that extension of the tax cuts does not always translate into tax cuts for localities. Federal tax cuts often diminish state revenue, placing additional pressure on local districts to raise taxes to cover the federal and state funding shortfalls. AASA would also oppose any amendments considered during the budget debate that would be offset based on across the board cuts. These amendments would require robbing Peter to pay Paul.

In closing, AASA strongly urges your support for House Concurrent Resolution 99 because it makes an important effort of recognizing the importance of a federal investment in education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary Kusler".

Mary Kusler  
Assistant Director, Government Relations



LOCAL SERVICE NATIONAL VOICE

JOHN M. LAWSON  
*President & Chief Executive Officer*

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Budget  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt:

On behalf of the Association of Public Television Stations (APTS), I write to express our strong support for your FY08 Budget Resolution. We share its priorities, including its support for two-year advance funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and the substantial increase in the allocation for education programs.

APTS is a nonprofit membership organization established in 1980 to support the continued growth and development of a strong and financially sound noncommercial television service for the American public. Our members are among the 356 Public Television stations that receive federal funds and serve local communities.

Public Television stations receive federal funding from a variety of programs. Most importantly, funding through CPB reaches local Public Television and radio stations in the form of Community Service Grants (CSGs). While accounting for only 16% of the average station's overall budget, CSGs serve as the backbone of support for many stations. They provide seed money that our stations match several times over by fundraising from other sources.

As you know, the CPB appropriation is advance-funded; funds appropriated in FY08 will reach CPB and the stations in FY10. This longstanding practice ensures public broadcasters are able to insulate programming decisions from political influence, leverage the promise of federal dollars to raise state, local and private funds, and have the critical lead-in time needed to plan and produce programs. It is vital to our mission, and we greatly appreciate your support for CPB advance funding in the Resolution.

By virtue of our educational mission, Public Television receives funding through three education programs: Ready To Learn, Ready To Teach and Star Schools. Through these programs, Public Television has been able to leverage our expertise in education by creating high-quality, effective learning tools for students and teachers alike. We are very pleased that your Resolution provides budget authority for substantial increases in education spending.

We certainly understand the difficult choices your Committee must make, and we are grateful for your commitment to Digital Public Service Media.

Sincerely,

The Association of  
Public Television Stations

666 Eleventh Street, NW  
Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20001

tel 202-654-4200 fax 202-654-4236  
website [www.aptso.org](http://www.aptso.org)

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt  
1401 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Spratt:

On behalf of the National Head Start Association, I would like to commend you and the budget committee on the current House budget resolution. We stand firmly behind your efforts to invest funds where they belong—in programs that benefit children. We appreciate the time and effort you and your staff put into these important decisions, and we are grateful for your support of low-income children and families. Your emphasis on prioritizing funds for children's education and health is refreshing and long over-due.

We are supportive of the House budget resolution because Head Start is in need of an increase of at least \$750 million for this upcoming fiscal year. These funds are needed to restore the cuts that programs have made since 2002 because of funding short-falls.

As you are well aware, the President's proposal to cut Head Start funding by \$100 million in fiscal year 2008 will mean that about 30,000 children could be dropped from the program next year. It may also result in further cuts to critical services such as transportation, educational programming, and needed social services that only Head Start can provide. We are grateful that your budget proposal makes the decision to support low-income children. We hope that this will reverse the trend of the past few years in Congress of cutting taxes for the very richest and denying services to the very poorest children.

We also support your efforts to spend increased funding for other essential children's programs including the proposed \$50 billion in new spending over five years for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). This is in direct contrast to the president's budget provision of only \$4.8 billion. We stand with other major organizations behind an increase for this critical program.

NHSA knows you are supportive of Head Start, and we appreciate all that you have done for the program. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any information or support needed to make these necessary increases a reality.

Sincerely,



Sarah Greene  
President and CEO  
National Head Start Association

March 27, 2007

Member  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515



**RE: Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution (H.Con.Res. 99)**

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 95,000 school board members who represent our nation's 48 million public schoolchildren and 15,000 school districts, the National School Boards Association urges your strong support for passage of the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution, H. Con. Res. 99, which would provide additional funding of more than \$3 billion over current service levels for education programs.

The additional funding proposed in H.Con.Res. 99 would help restore Congress' commitment to key education programs and provide \$7.9 billion more than the Administration's proposed budget for education. Moreover, the proposed increase would help fund the federal share of costs promised for special education under the *Individuals With Disabilities Education Act*, thereby reducing the burden on local taxpayers. The increased funding would also provide our school districts with additional resources needed through Title I grants for disadvantaged students, which is the main source of federal funding available to fulfill requirements for school and student achievement under the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB). Further, H.Con.Res. 99 would provide the funding needed to restore previous cuts to other education programs under NCLB, such as state education technology grants and Title V Innovative Education. The Enhancing Education Through Technology program for our schools is an essential component to the American Competitiveness Initiative; and Title V grants are important to helping schools address specific local needs for student achievement, such as class-size reduction and professional development.

NSBA urges you to support amendments that increase federal funding for K-12 education; but not at the cost of cutting other education programs. We strongly oppose amendments that would result in across the board cuts to education or use education funding as an offset for other areas of the budget.

NSBA greatly appreciates the House's efforts to increase and restore funding for programs critical to the overall success of our students. H.Con.Res. 99 builds upon the Continuing Resolution for FY 2007, which restored the across-the-board cuts to Title I and IDEA imposed in FY 2006.

Without such provisions in the FY 2008 budget resolution, the gap between federal funding and local educational needs widens, thereby impacting the already limited budgets of many school districts and increasing levies on local taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A

Michael A. Resnick  
Associate Executive Director

*Excellence and Equity  
in Public Education  
through School Board  
Leadership*

**Office of Advocacy**

- E. Jane Gallucci  
President
- Anne L. Bryant  
Executive Director
- Michael A. Resnick  
Associate  
Executive Director



COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

March 27, 2007

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Dear Representative:

The Committee for Education Funding, a non-partisan coalition of more than one hundred organizations reflecting the broad spectrum of the education community, urges you to support and build on the FY08 House Budget Committee's resolution for function 500 which provides an increase of \$3 billion over current service levels and \$7.9 billion more than the President's request for education and related programs. H.Con.Res. 99 takes a significant step on a new, more positive course in federal education investment for the success of America's students in the global economy.

More than twenty million students served by federal education programs across the country have seen the resources they need eroded and stretched thin by across the board cuts and the costs of inflation and enrollment growth, making it harder for schools and libraries to provide services and for students to pay for college.

Substantial funding increases are required to restore funding to the 2004 levels, fully serve 3.7 million disadvantaged students under Title I of NCLB, increase the federal percentage contribution by \$2 billion for special education for 6.9 million students under IDEA, and work towards raising the maximum Pell Grant award to \$5,100 for more than 5.2 million low income students to attend college.

We also urge you to support amendments which increase federal funding for education but not at the cost of cutting other education programs. We also strongly oppose amendments that result in across the board cuts to education.

Increased education investment will more than pay for itself by increasing employability, producing increased earnings and tax revenues, and generating the knowledge and innovation that spark economic growth. At the same time, it also reduces the incidence of costly social issues such as unemployment, poverty and crime.

When our students succeed, our nation succeeds.

Sincerely,

Neil Snyder  
President

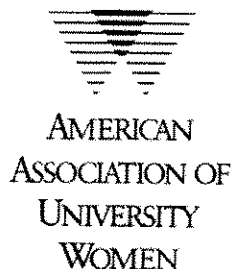
Edward R Kealy  
Executive Director



## Support the Budget Resolution and Restore Critical Education Funding

March 27, 2007

Dear Representative:



On behalf of over 100,000 bipartisan members of the American Association of University Women, we urge you to **support the House Budget Resolution (H. Con. Res. 99)**. It reflects the values and priorities of the American people by setting a responsible fiscal course and maintaining a commitment to key education programs.

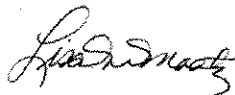
AAUW believes quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society and must be supported by responsible funding at all levels. The administration's budget proposed cutting funding for the U.S. Department of Education by \$1.5 billion below the 2007 level. Further, the budget proposal would have eliminated 44 education programs. AAUW believes these are the wrong priorities.

These vital education and training programs play a central role in our nation's strategy to strengthen the economy and prepare Americans for the 21st century workforce. For this reason, AAUW supports the passage of the Budget Resolution, which recommends a 2008 program level for education, training, and social services that is \$3.0 billion above current levels and \$8 billion above the president's budget. This funding will improve No Child Left Behind programs, special education, and help students afford college while allowing the Appropriations Subcommittees to restore previous cuts enacted in FY2007 and fund other key education programs.

Since its founding in 1881, AAUW has been committed to making the dream of a quality education a reality for women and girls. With changes in the workforce over the last 125 years, higher education is becoming less of a luxury and more of a necessity. By the year 2014, it is estimated that there will be 12 million new jobs where postsecondary education will most likely be necessary.<sup>1</sup> As the skill requirements of the workplace continue to increase, so too should access to postsecondary training for all students. To meet these demands, it is crucial that the federal government maintain its commitment to funding quality education programs at all levels. The Budget Resolution approved by the House Budget Committee achieves this goal by rejecting the president's proposed cuts in education and training and adding new resources for K-12 education while making college more affordable.

Now is the time to invest in education and training programs to ensure that our nation will remain competitive in the global economy. If you have further questions, please contact me at 202/785-7720 or Tracy Sherman, Government Relations Manager, at 202/785-7730. Votes associated with these issues may be included in the AAUW Congressional Voting Record for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Maatz  
Director, Public Policy and Government Relations

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<sup>1</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Projections and Training Data, 2006-07 Edition.  
<http://www.bls.gov/emp/optd/optd001.pdf> Accessed December 15, 2006.

- AJCU -

March 27, 2007

Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt,

On behalf of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and the twenty-eight institutions that we represent, I write in strong support of the House Budget Resolution for FY08.

For the past five years, lean budgets have been proposed by the Administration and Congress that did a great deal of disservice for federal student aid by calling for eliminations and level-funding of federal student aid programs. We greatly appreciate that your budget identifies preserving two important student aid programs that are targeted for elimination in the President's Budget for FY08: The Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant Program and the IEAP program. We appreciate the support of these two excellent and well-working programs that provides access to thousands of our Jesuit students.

We also highly endorse the Budget Committee's goal of achieving at least a \$4,600 Pell grant maximum award for FY08. As you know, the Pell grant maximum award has been flat for four years, until the recently passed FY07 Continuing Resolution which increased the maximum award by \$260. We know that this increase will contribute to achieve the \$5,100 Pell grant maximum award goal that AJCU and the Student Aid Alliance highly endorses.

The House Budget also provides for a healthy \$7.9 billion increase above the President's FY08 budget, which includes \$5.9 billion in FY08 plus \$2 billion in advanced funding. We appreciate setting up a Reserve Fund for Higher Education so that the House Education and Labor Committee can maximize student access for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Again, thank you for caring deeply about the future opportunities of our nation's students by providing more access through increases in education allocations.

Sincerely,



Charles L. Currie, SJ  
President

March 26, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman  
House Budget Committee  
309 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Ranking Member  
House Budget Committee  
B-71 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Chairman Spratt and Ranking Member Ryan:

I am writing in support of the fiscal 2008 budget resolution passed by your committee last week, and urge its adoption on the House floor. The resolution makes a commitment for \$50 billion over the next five years in new funding to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Since 1997, in conjunction with Medicaid, SCHIP has contributed to a one-third decline in the uninsured rate of low-income children. Today, over six million children benefit from this effective health care program. To continue the success of SCHIP it is essential that the program is reauthorized later this year with enough funds to move towards the widely-shared goal of ensuring that all children have health insurance coverage.

More than 9 million children still lack health insurance in the United States. That is more than the total number of kids enrolled in the first and second grades in U.S. public schools. Four out of five of these children have parents who work but cannot afford health insurance coverage.

Congress must make covering American's children a top priority for 2007 and your fiscal 2008 budget resolution is the critical first step. With \$50 billion in new funding, states will be able to enroll more children who are currently eligible. In addition, this amount of money will ensure that no child who is enrolled in SCHIP today will lose coverage because of a shortfall in funds.

Sincerely,

Ron Pollack  
Executive Director

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



## AAP Headquarters

141 Northwest Point Blvd  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098  
Phone: 847/434-4000  
Fax: 847/434-8000  
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org  
www.aap.org

## Reply to

Department of Federal Affairs  
Homer Building, Suite 400 N  
601 13th St NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: 202/347-8600  
Fax: 202/393-6137  
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

## Executive Committee

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Jay E. Berkelhamer, MD, FAAP

### President-Elect

Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP

### Executive Director/CEO

Errol R. Aiden, MD, FAAP

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Tampa, FL

## Immediate Past President

Eileen M. Ouellette, MD, JD, FAAP

March 27, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman, Budget Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Room 207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6065

Dear Chairman Spratt:

Thank you on behalf of the 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists, who comprise the membership of the American Academy of Pediatrics, for the leadership you have shown in funding the State Children's Health Insurance Program in the FY 2008 budget. The budget you have reported out of your Committee includes a significant commitment to infants, children, adolescents and young adults through its funding of SCHIP and Medicaid.

In February, more than 60 organizations signed onto a letter requesting that the Congress set aside \$60 billion over the next 5 years in new funds for children's health. These organizations recognize that since SCHIP was enacted in 1997, the country has made notable progress toward insuring all children. Despite swimming upstream against rising health care costs and declines in employer-based coverage, SCHIP and its larger companion program, Medicaid, have reduced the uninsured rate of low-income children by a third.

The reauthorization of SCHIP comes at just the right moment. The public strongly supports efforts to cover children, and many states across the nation are pursuing initiatives to build on the success of public programs. Some are working to enroll more of the uninsured children already eligible for SCHIP or Medicaid, while others are seeking to expand coverage to more children through the federal funds that will be made available to them.

Although the Academy would like to see even more expansive changes in the way that health care is provided to children in this country, we believe that your budget provides the necessary tools for Congress to take the next critical step forward in providing health care to the most vulnerable Americans. Thank you again for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Jackie Noyes".

E. Jackie Noyes, MA

THE  
CATHOLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES



March 27, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt  
Chairman, House Budget Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
309 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Chairman Spratt:

The Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), which represents the nation's Catholic health care providers, would like to thank you and express our support for including in the House Budget Resolution at least \$50 billion in new funding to reauthorize and expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The Catholic health ministry, with over 600 acute care hospitals and over 1200 long-term care facilities, supports affordable and accessible health care for all, particularly such vulnerable members of our society as children. We firmly believe that there is no excuse why any child in our nation should go without access to health care, a basic right that is critically important to the well-being and development of children.

We are pleased that you and your colleagues on the Budget Committee have recognized the importance of the SCHIP program to the health of our nation's children, and its role in helping to extend vital health coverage to those who otherwise would go without it. We believe that the budget resolution should reflect the values and priorities of who we are as a nation, and chief among those priorities is preserving and expanding access to health care. Extending coverage to all children while at the same time preserving full and adequate funding for programs such as Medicare and Medicaid is an important first step toward making the goal of health coverage for everyone a reality.

We thank you again for ensuring that the SCHIP program, as well as Medicare and Medicaid, continue to provide access to care for the populations they have long and successfully served.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rodgers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Rodgers  
Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1875 Eye Street, NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20006-5409  
Phone 202-296-3993  
Fax 202-296-3997  
[www.chausa.org](http://www.chausa.org)



March 26, 2007

The Honorable John C. Spratt  
Chairman, House Committee on the Budget  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt:

OMB Watch, a nonprofit government watchdog organization that promotes open government, accountability and citizen participation, is writing to express its support for House passage of the Fiscal Year 2008 budget resolution adopted last week by the House Budget Committee.

We applaud its commitment to restoring fiscal responsibility by seeking to eliminate federal budget deficits by 2012, adopting the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) principle requiring that any new tax cuts and mandatory spending be paid for, barring fast-track reconciliation to pass legislation that adds to the deficit, and closing wasteful and unfair tax loopholes and shelters.

Furthermore, the House resolution begins to address long-standing inequities in the federal budgets of recent years. Its non-defense discretionary spending increase of \$19 billion over the president's budget and the proposed increase of \$50 billion to expand children's health insurance to cover millions of additional uninsured children are important steps in the right direction of providing the investments in our communities that have been lacking. Nonetheless, we believe that still more needs to be done to address chronically under-funded human needs.

We hope that the House will defeat any amendments seeking to weaken the resolution's fiscal responsibility resolve and its efforts to restore balance in terms of the nation's spending priorities. We appreciate the effort you and the Budget Committee have made to produce this resolution, which represents a distinct improvement over recent past budgets, and hope we can be helpful in ensuring its passage.

Sincerely,

Gary Bass  
Executive Director

cc: Speaker Nancy Pelosi



THE  
**Voice**  
OF THE  
**Innovation**  
ECONOMY

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, March 28, 2007

Contact: Jim Hock 202-463-0013, ext 202

## **TechNet Applauds House Budget Resolution's Focus on Education and Innovation**

Washington, DC -TechNet, the bipartisan political network of chief executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy, today applauded the U.S. House leadership on the FY 2008 Budget Resolution (H.Con.Res.99).

The \$2.9 trillion budget, authored by House Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt (D-SC), is scheduled to be taken up by the full House today. TechNet leaders were pleased that the proposal includes a sustained commitment to research and development, energy security, education and environmental protection.

"TechNet applauds Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Chairman John Spratt and the House leadership for making issues critical to America's continued innovation leadership such a priority" said Lezlee Westine, President and CEO of TechNet. "The United States remains the world's innovation leader but that status is not guaranteed. As a nation, we must continue investing in key research and development and education programs at robust levels. This proposal is a blueprint to maintain U.S. innovation leadership by providing critical investments in education, energy and research and development." "It calls for 100,000 new scientists, engineers, and mathematicians, more highly qualified teachers in math and science classrooms and provides much-needed funds to solve our energy challenge through the development of clean and sustainable energy technologies and basic research."

### **The TechNet 2007 Policy Agenda:**

- TechNet supports initiatives that will strengthen America's education system, increase the number of Americans attaining degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and ensure a high-skilled 21st century workforce;
- TechNet supports policies that spur entrepreneurship, employee ownership and small business growth;
- TechNet supports policies to spur green technologies and achieve energy security, economic competitiveness and enhanced protection of the environment. TechNet unveiled its Green Tech policy agenda and a new report earlier this month. More can be found at [www.technet.org](http://www.technet.org).
- TechNet supports patent litigation reform efforts to end meritless lawsuits that are a drain on resources and innovation;
- TechNet advocates policies to spur the rapid deployment of broadband networks and consumer access to Internet content and services, and to ensure the continued growth and vitality of the Internet.
- TechNet calls for a strong national investment in research and development through increased federal funding for basic research and enactment of a permanent R&D tax credit;
- TechNet supports international trade policies and agreements that expand markets for U.S. industry.

### **About TechNet**

*TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of CEOs that promotes the growth of technology industries and the economy by building long-term relationships between technology leaders and policymakers and by advocating a targeted policy agenda. TechNet members represent more than one million employees in the fields of information technology, biotechnology, green technology, e-commerce and finance. TechNet has offices in Washington, DC, Palo Alto, Sacramento, Seattle, Boston, Austin, and Orange County (California). Web address: [www.technet.org](http://www.technet.org).*

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COMPUTER & COMMUNICATIONS  
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
*Open Markets, Open Systems, Open Networks*

March 27, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the Computer & Communications Industry Association, I write in support of the House Budget Resolution (H. Con. Res. 99), which provides funding to ensure continued U.S. preeminence in innovation, education, and research. We strongly endorse this important legislation.

CCIA is a nonprofit, mission-driven association of information and communications technology companies, dedicated to promoting innovation and competition. Our members employ more than 600,000 workers and generate annual revenues in excess of \$200 billion. As the jobs and revenue attributable to our industry depend upon U.S. global competitiveness, we applaud the Budget Resolution's commitment to promoting U.S. innovation.

Our members work on the cutting edge of technology, and recognize that the resource most essential to maintaining that edge is our employees. To sustain our intellectual capital, however, it is necessary to provide tomorrow's skilled workforce with the requisite education in science, engineering, and mathematics. We therefore support the Budget Resolution's provision of additional funding for qualified math and science teachers for K-12 students.

Similarly, the Resolution's provision for increased funding for the National Science Foundation will help to ensure our long-term competitiveness against other nations that are dramatically increasing investments in research and education.

Ultimately, funding for basic research and science is repaid many times over by creating new insights and platform technologies that spur innovation and economic growth -- and by deepening our stock of human capital.

Thank you for your continued commitment to an innovation agenda.

Sincerely,

Ed Black  
President & CEO  
Computer & Communications Industry Association



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 27, 2007

**CONTACT:**

Michael Meneer  
Council on Competitiveness  
202-969-3406  
[mmeneer@compete.org](mailto:mmeneer@compete.org)

**Statement of Council on Competitiveness President Deborah L. Wince-Smith**  
**Regarding House Budget Deliberations**  
*Innovation Agenda Essential to U.S. Competitiveness*

**Washington, D.C.** – Council on Competitiveness President Deborah L. Wince-Smith made the following statement today regarding this week's FY 08 budget deliberations in the House of Representatives.

"I would like to express the appreciation of the Council on Competitiveness and our members to Speaker Nancy Pelosi for including the national innovation agenda in the FY '08 Budget resolution. Speaker Pelosi is to be commended for her recognition of the importance of research and education to the enhancement of productivity and prosperity for the nation. These are critical elements at the heart of maintaining our position as the global economic leader."

-END-

**BACKGROUND:** Since issuing its landmark report, *Innovate America*, in December 2004, the Council on Competitiveness has led the call for a national innovation agenda to enhance American competitiveness and drive individual prosperity.

**ABOUT THE COUNCIL ON COMPETITIVENESS:** *The Council on Competitiveness is the only group of corporate CEOs, university presidents and labor leaders committed to the future prosperity of all Americans and enhanced U.S. competitiveness in the global economy through the creation of high-value economic activity in the United States.*



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[www.eia.org](http://www.eia.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wed., March 28, 2007

CONTACT: Kevin Schweers  
(703) 907-7525 / [kschweers@eia.org](mailto:kschweers@eia.org)

## **EIA: New Funds for Research, Science and Education Will Help U.S. Companies, Workers Compete**

**ARLINGTON, Va.** – The Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA) today embraced several innovation provisions included in a new fiscal year (FY) 2008 budget plan offered by top Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives this week and urged lawmakers to fully fund the proposals through the appropriations process this year.

The budget resolution, expected to come before the full House for a vote this week, calls for significant investments in key areas of federal scientific research, education and space programs. Specifically the bill:

- Boosts the General Science, Space, and Technology budget (Function 250) – which includes research programs at the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Energy's science office – by \$2 billion to \$27.6 billion;
- Augments funding for additional Department of Energy research (Function 270) by \$300 million over the president's request, at \$3.2 billion; and
- Funds the Education, Training, and Employment budget (Function 500) at \$92.5 billion, a level \$7.9 billion higher than the president's request.

"Time and again, leaders from every sector of our industry have highlighted the need to step up federal investments in research and technology. Now, it looks like we're making real progress toward that goal," said Charlie Robinson, EIA's interim president and CEO. "These funds will help generate new ideas and develop more innovators here in the U.S. to bring those ideas to the marketplace. American workers and companies can't help but be more competitive as a result."

"House leaders see the value in these programs even in a year of extraordinary budget pressures," Robinson added. "We hope the House approves this funding this week and we urge congressional leaders to see these priorities through to the end of the appropriations process."

The House bill also includes a policy statement supporting extension of the research and development (R&D) tax credit, which is a key tax provision for many in the high-tech community. EIA supports a strong, permanent R&D credit of commensurate rate for all companies; a 20% simplified credit; and an extension of the traditional credit.

The budget legislation contains another statement, backed by EIA, reaffirming Congress' commitment to American innovation, education and economic growth.

EIA has long argued in favor of increased basic research and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education funding, two critical parts of the Alliance's competitiveness agenda outlined in the 2004 policy playbook, *The Technology Industry at an Innovation Crossroads*.

Earlier this year, Congress enacted smaller increases to these programs as it finished work on the FY 2007 budget. That action came soon after a Jan. 18 letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., sent by EIA and other trade associations and corporations calling for the funding.

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EIA, headquartered in Arlington, Va., comprises nearly 1,300 member companies whose products and services range from the smallest electronic components to the most complex systems used by defense, space and industry, including the full range of consumer electronic products. The Alliance is composed of four sector organizations: the Electronic Components, Assemblies and Materials Association; the Government Electronics and Information Technology Association; the JEDEC Solid State Technology Association; and the Telecommunications Industry Association.



27 March 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

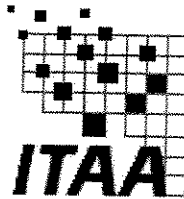
I am writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA) to express our strong support for the science and technology investments proposed in the FY 2008 budget resolution (H.Con.Res. 99), which the House of Representatives is scheduled to take up this week.

The proposed Budget Resolution contains much needed increases for General Science, Space and Technology (Function 250); Energy (Function 270); and Education, Training, and Employment (Function 500). These funding increases for science, technology and education will be essential to preserving and enhancing America's competitive edge in an increasingly aggressive global economy. We are encouraged to see that Congress is taking to heart the clarion call issued by the National Academies and other science and engineering organizations on the need for the federal government to proactively secure the United States' national security, well-being, and quality of life through targeted investments in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

We commend you for your leadership and strongly urge Congress to pass this vital legislation. IEEE-USA stands ready to assist in the effort and offers the considerable resources of the 225,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. IEEE-USA is part of the IEEE, the world's largest technical professional society with 360,000 members in 150 countries. For more information, go to <http://www.ieeeusa.org>. If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Bill Williams, legislative representative for IEEE-USA's Research and Development Policy Committee, at (202) 530-8331.

Sincerely,

John W. Meredith, P.E.  
President, IEEE-USA



March 27, 2007

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Capitol Building, H-232  
Washington, DC 20515-6501

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the Information Technology Association of America, and our more than 325 member companies, I would like to express our strong support for the substantial innovation funding proposed in the House majority's budget resolution, HCON99.

From development of a competitive workforce to support for faster and more ubiquitous broadband, the House Democrat's Innovation Agenda has identified key elements to keeping the American economy competitive and growing. This budget resolution clearly demonstrates the majority's continuing commitment to progress on these issues. The information technology industry firmly believes that these measures would help maintain U.S. leadership in innovation and create new, high-quality jobs for America.

We particularly applaud your decision to respond to the President's leadership on these issues by going above and beyond in proposing FY 2008 funding for innovation issues at a level \$450 million higher than the White House requested. This would authorize funding for initiatives in science, space and technology; as well as education, employment and training that would aid our nation's economic cause.

ITAA also believes that the proposed increase in funding to educate new scientists, engineers, and mathematicians and to place highly qualified teachers in classrooms could yield great economic returns. Along with improvements to America's high-tech immigration system, no issue is more critical to improving our supply of human capital.

The proposed funding for research and development also is of fundamental importance to America's innovation leadership, and in turn gives rise to the millions of dollars invested by the private sector each year. This funding should be considered in conjunction with the investment of a permanent extension of the Research and Development Tax Credit, in order to uphold our country's status as a favorite research and development destination for corporations.

We applaud the wide and bipartisan emphasis on America's competitiveness and innovative capacity. We look forward to working with you, your counterparts on the other side of the aisle and the Administration in order to pass the funding embodied in this resolution and ultimately realize greater economic growth for America.

Sincerely,

Phillip J. Bond  
President and CEO of ITAA



Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Contact: Heather Smith  
202-626-5740  
[hsmith@itic.org](mailto:hsmith@itic.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ITI Applauds Democratic Leadership for Making Innovation a Priority in '08 Budget**

Washington, DC—*March 27, 2007*—The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) today applauded provisions in the House Budget Resolution that increase funding for scientific innovation and education.

"The budget contains a number of tech-friendly provisions that demonstrate a sustained commitment to innovation and global competitiveness, and we commend the House Democratic leadership for following through on its promise to keep America #1," said Rhett Dawson, ITI's president and CEO. "This funding builds on increases contained in the FY'06 Continuing Appropriations, and given current fiscal constraints, we strongly support the House's efforts to strengthen the country's high-tech foundations."

Dawson highlighted to following provisions in the House Budget Resolution:

- **Increased funding for scientific research.** In the function for General Science, Space, and Technology, which includes investments in NSF, NASA, and DOE-Science, the House Budget Resolution provides nearly \$2 billion over current services for fiscal year 2008, which is \$150 million more than the President's request. In the energy function, the House Budget Resolution provides \$300 million over the President's request for fiscal year 2008, bringing the total increase to \$450 million.
- **Developing homegrown math and science talent.** Under the function for Education, Training, and Employment, the House Budget resolution provides \$7.9 billion over the President's request for fiscal year 2008.
- **A strong commitment to innovation.** The resolution also includes a sense of the House that explicitly states the House's support for innovation and competitiveness.

ITI member companies include Accenture, Agilent Technologies, AMD, Apple, Applied Materials, CA, Canon U.S.A., Cisco, Computer Association, Corning, Dell, Eastman Kodak, eBay, EMC, Hewlett-Packard, Honeywell, IBM, Intel, Intuit, Lenovo, Lexmark, Micron, Microsoft, Monster, National Semiconductor, NCR, Network Appliance, Oracle, Panasonic, Qualcomm, RIM, SAP, Sony Electronics, Sun Microsystems, Symbol Technologies, Tektronix, Texas Instruments, Time Warner, Unisys, Verisign and Vonage.

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www.semi.org

March 27, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI), I am writing to express our support for the Innovation Agenda. Since our knowledge-intensive industry is a strong contributor to and highly dependent on technological advancement, one of our top policy priorities is increasing funding for basic research. We thank the Congress for increasing funding for basic research at key agencies in the final FY07 appropriations package and we are pleased to see continued support for this priority in the proposed House Budget Resolution.

SEMI represents over 800 U.S. companies in the \$77 billion worldwide semiconductor equipment and materials industries. These industries supply the enabling technologies, including raw materials and advanced tools, to produce every semiconductor-based product. Our members also provide a base for emerging technologies such as MEMS and nanotechnology.

While our member companies invest an average of 15 to 20 percent of their revenues in research and development, we can't do it alone. SEMI has long advocated for increased funding for the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology because of their significant contributions to basic research and to the development of a high tech workforce. This funding is vital to maintaining competitive leadership in electronics and materials sciences and ensuring that the United States has the necessary infrastructure to fuel continuous advances in microelectronics technologies.

We are pleased to see increasing attention to the critical issues affecting our country's competitiveness and we appreciate your leadership. SEMI remains committed to work with policymakers to achieve bipartisan consensus and results on innovation issues in the near term.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Victoria D. Hadfield'.

Victoria D. Hadfield  
President, SEMI North America



**Symantec Statement on HCR 99**  
**Wednesday, March 28, 2007**

"Innovation, in all areas and across all industries, is the key for America to stay competitive in today's global economy," said Mark Bregman, chief technology officer, Symantec. "The United States is still the world's innovation leader, but that advantage cannot be taken for granted and must be sustained. Strengthening education in the areas of math and science is the key for fostering innovation. Concurrent Resolution 99 by the U.S. House of Representatives reflects the kind of national commitment needed to ensure our competitiveness. Symantec fully supports this effort under Speaker Pelosi's leadership, and we look forward to working with her and the Congress overall to help revitalize our nation's global economic position through a strong atmosphere of innovation."